STAR OF MYSORE

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OUR EVENING DAILY
41st
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

MYSURU Friday 16th February 2018
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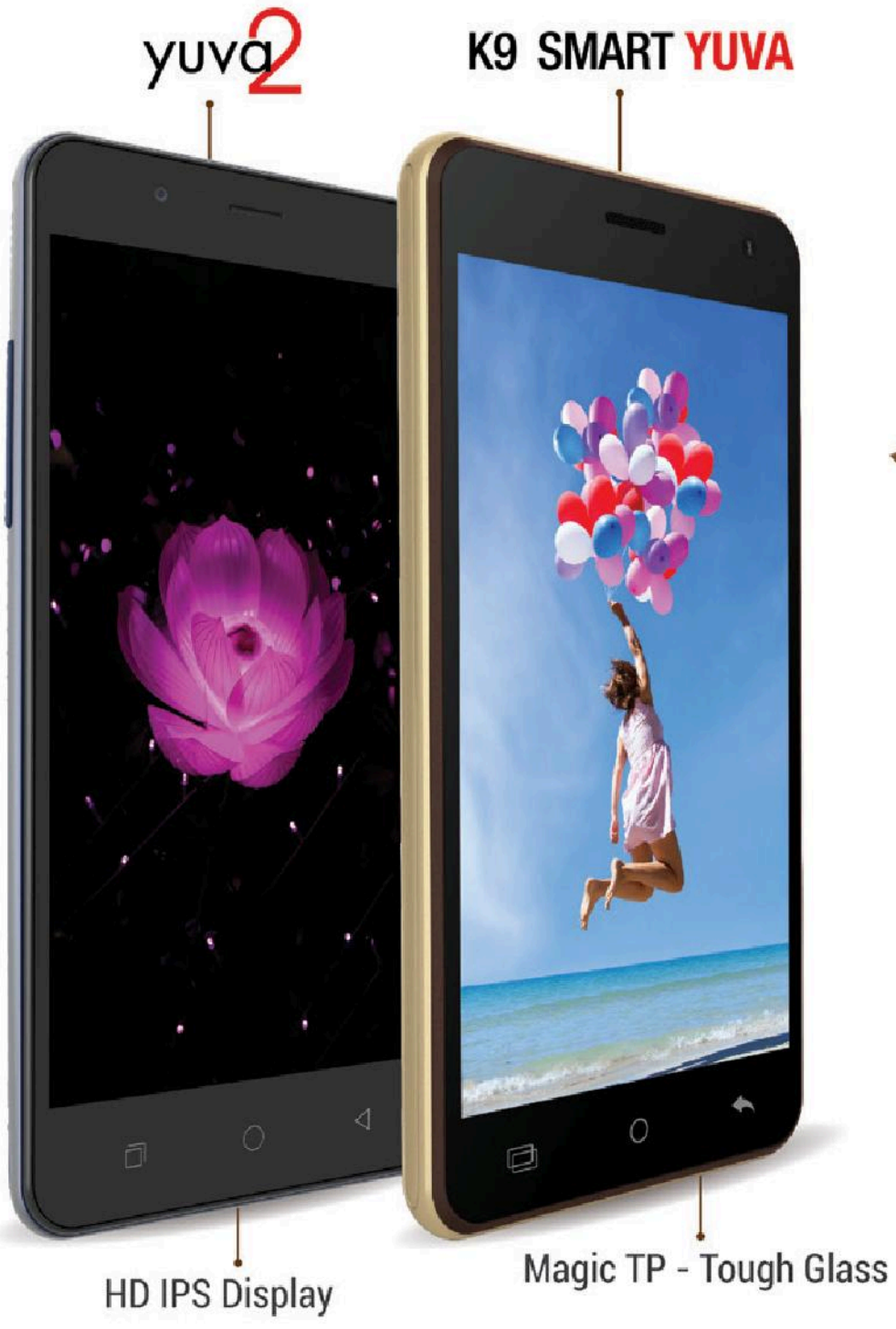

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editorial Advisor: K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Friday 16th February 2018

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 40 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 41st year of our publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are indeed beholden to our readers and advertisers for making this possible.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from our pre-press to our printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru*. We have learned contributors who provide their expert views on issues current and of common interest. This is in addition to our weekly supplement on subjects of special interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening. Please feel free to give us your feedback on and perception of STAR OF MYSORE.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

Japanese Armani Uniforms

Tokyo: Ginza is known as the most fashionable district of Japan's capital, Tokyo, and one public elementary school located there recently decided that it would be very fitting for children to dress accordingly. Thus Taimei Elementary School students will be donning $700 designer uniforms created by Italian fashion label Armani.

The school's decision to replace its old uniforms without even consulting the parents has sparked outrage all over Japan, and was even discussed in Japan's Parliament last week, with one opposition lawmaker noting that the 80,000 yen ($700) school uniforms were more expensive than most business suits.

A standard school uniform at Taimei Elementary School costs around 17,000 yen ($155) for boys and 19,000 yen for girls, and includes a jacket, pants or skirt, shirt or blouse, and hat. However, the new Armani attire would cost over 40,000yen ($310) also comes with optional designer accessories (school bag, vest, sweater and socks) for a total cost of 80,000 yen.

A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* nor any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

LAUGHTER
THE BEST MEDICINE

Girlfriend and boyfriend doing love chat in park.
Girlfriend: *"How much do you love me?"*
Boyfriend: *"I'd take Bullet for you."*
Girlfriend: *"Awwwww! Seriously?"*
Boyfriend: *"Yeah, Enfield Bullet in Dowry."*

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Saga of small newspapers in Mysuru

The history of journalism in Karnataka, aka Karnataka Press, will be incomplete without reference to the role played by small newspapers. In fact, small newspapers form a significant portion of the history of journalism because of the important role played by them for over a century and half, says Mysuru-based Senior Journalist Gouri Satya, working freelance, writing features for newspapers and magazines, apart from being the Editor of "Samachar" English daily, now defunct.—Ed

Gouri Satya

> "Between 1880 and 1903, a number of newspapers made their appearance in English and Kannada. Yajaman Virupakshaiah started "Mysore Star" in 1881. It remained in publication till 1928, beginning as a weekly and subsequently as a daily. Significantly, this is the first daily published from Mysuru and for 47 years."

By Gouri Satya,
Sr. Journalist

Small newspapers stand distinctly apart from the national or regional newspapers because of the advantages they command. Working closer to the community, they understand the local problems and needs, and act as ears and voice of the local people. They keep their eyes open to the day's happenings around them. They deal with local issues extensively in a language that the local population understands which cannot be matched by the national or regional Press, though of late these big newspapers are trying to reach out to the local people by bringing out district and mofussil editions.

Small newspapers, which have now emerged as district newspapers, act as conduit between the public and the policy-makers and shape public opinion on local issues. These strong points have made them to carve out a niche for themselves in the history of journalism.

First Printing Press

Credit should go to the Christian Missionaries for setting up the first printing Press in the then Mysore State. It came up in Bengaluru in 1840; it was set up by the Wesleyan Missionaries. In response to the request by Thomas Hodson, one of the Missionaries who was in Mysuru, to send a person who had knowledge of printing technicalities, the Mission Committee of England sent John Garett in 1839. Soon after his arrival, he set up the Press towards the end of 1840 in Fraserpet of Bangalore Cantonment.

The Wesleyan Mission Press functioned there for a little over three decades till it was closed down in 1872. However, a few years later, a similar Mission Press was established in Mysuru in 1889. It was the famous Wesleyan Printing Press. Henry Haigh of the Mission was responsible for its establishment.

The Pioneers

Publication of newspaper in Mysuru had started in 1859, even before the establishment of the Wesleyan Press. The pioneer was Bhashyam Bhashyacharya. His was a weekly newspaper called *"Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini."* It was the first newspaper in Mysuru. An English-Kannada bilingual, it was printed in the Krishna Vilasa Press, Mysuru. After a short span of five years, it ceased publication in 1864.

The first newspaper of any standing appeared in 1865. It was *"Karnataka Prakashika,"* an Anglo-Kannada weekly, brought out by Bhashyam Tirumalacharya, one of the two Bhashyam brothers. After an interruption in 1868, it was revived in 1894 and continued till 1898. It was initially a fortnightly and subsequently a weekly.

However, even before its publication, the Wesleyan Mission had launched a small English monthly in 1861 and it was titled *"The Harvest Field."* *"The Methodist"* magazine was initially published in the Wesleyan Mission Press in Bengaluru and later in Mysuru. The last issue appears to be of December 1924. Between 1880 and 1903, a number of newspapers made their appearance in English and Kannada. Yajaman Virupakshaiah started *"Mysore Star"* in 1881. It remained in publication till 1928, beginning as a weekly and subsequently as a daily. Significantly, this is the first daily published from Mysuru and for 47 years.

Father of Kannada Journalism

The next landmark in the history of Kannada journalism in Mysuru is the period of M. Venkatakrishnaiah, popularly known as "Thathaiah" or the "Grand old man of Mysore." He brought out a number of publications — *"Hithabodhini"* in 1884 as a monthly, *"Vrittanta Chinthamani"* in 1885 as a weekly, *"Sadhvi"* in 1889 as a daily, *"Sampadabhyudaya"* and *"Poura Samajika Patrike,"* (all in Kannada), *"Mysore Herald"* in 1886, *"Mysore Patriot," "Mysore Review," "Wealth of Mysore,"* and *"Nature Cure"* (all in English). He was the doyen of Kannada journalism in Mysuru.

In 1886, a Kannada weekly, *"Vrittanta Darpana"* came on the scene and this was followed by a weekly, *"Vrittanta Patrike,"* a Christian newspaper printed in Kannada. The first number of *"Vrittanta Patrike"* was brought out by Henry Haigh in 1887. Initially, it was printed in Bengaluru and soon secured a circulation of 1,500-2,000 copies going up to 4,000 in the later years. It had a long life lasting till 1940. The Christian Mission also printed *"Mahila Sakhi"* (1900) and *"Bodhaka Bodhini"* (1905), both in Kannada. Thereafter, a number of publications were brought out from Mysuru. They included monthly, weekly and daily. Some of them with the year of publication, periodicity, and the name of the publisher were: *"Karnataka Vanivilasa"* (1888, monthly/bimonthly, Lakkooru Subbaraya), *"Suryodaya Prakashike"* (1888, daily/ weekly, B. Narasinga Rao), *"Vibhudha Ranjini"* (1888, weekly, G. Ramaswamy Shastri), *"Aryamata Sanjeevini"* (1889, a monthly, Ramanuja Iyengar), *"Sastra Sanjeevini"* (1890, Dakshinamurthy Sastry), *"Geervana Vaksudha"* (1890, Sreenivasa Iyengar) and *"Veerashaiva Matha Prakashike"* (1891, monthly, P.V. Rudrappa).

[Continued on page 50]

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CONGRATULATIONS
to STAR OF MYSORE
on 40 years of
successful completion
SOUTHERN STAR

City to get new water tanks

One at Vijayanagar Second Stage, another at Yadavagiri

An aerial view of the new water tank that is being constructed at Vijayanagar 2nd Stage.

Mysuru, Feb.16 (RK&BCT)- Summer is fast approaching and if things go as per plans and if there is sufficient water at Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam, the city will not face water crisis. For, the Centre, State Government and the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) have come together to build two gigantic ground-level water storage tanks in city. These tanks will boost the storage capacity and both tanks can store 13 million litres of water. The good news is that over 40 percent of the works have been completed and the target is to complete them by the time summer arrives.

While one tank is being built near the existing tank at Vijayanagar Second Stage, one more tank is coming up at Yadavagiri, inside the premises of the Office of Executive Engineer, Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWS&DB).

Apart from the two new tanks, the existing water tank at Vijayanagar Second Stage that has a badly damaged roof will be repaired and all leakages will be plugged by laying vitrified tiles.

It may be recalled here that in the last week of January, District in-Charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa and MLA Vasu, accompanied by a battery of officials, visited Vijayanagar water tank and inspected the works. The Minister had directed the officials to complete the works before summer.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Executive Engineer of KUWS&DB, Prasanna Murthy said that the two new water tanks, in addition to the bigger and smaller tanks, will increase the storage capacity for the city to tide over crisis situations. "We have a capacity to supply 24x7 water to the city," he said.

(See TANKS on page 47)

Anniversary Special issue

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NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles sent by our contributors and readers could not be published in this issue. They will be published soon. —**Ed**

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

India Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

It has been an unbroken tradition for me since 40 years to write an *Abracadabra* column for the annual special issue of *Star of Mysore* brought out on Feb.16 every year.

As I was thinking about the subject for this year's *Abracadabra*, my eyes spied over a tome of a book "*The Treasured Writings of Kahlil Gibran,*" author of '*The Prophet.*'

When I opened it, the first inner cover had a legend written by hand in ink by my elder son Vikram Muthanna. It read: "Happy Birthday Dad, from Vikram, Mickey and Rupi, 27.12.2007." Eleven years back to this day. My search for a subject ended here.

Kahlil Gibran, the Lebanese poet and philosopher, first came into my life, **influencing the understanding of my own personal life,** when I purchased a thin book by him titled '*The Prophet.*' There is hardly a subject and sentiment that he has not reflected on concerning we human beings — love, hate, children, death, country and more. And the subject for the *Abracadabra* that came to my mind was my country — India, Bharat, Hindustan; call it by any name it is the same. The only land of Hindus with a myriad culture, language, apparel, Gods and Goddesses. Others came later or Hindus got converted into other religions or remained Charvakas.

To borrow a sentence from Kahlil Gibran, I remembered my country, "like a bird whose instinct leads him to his nest." I was led to my nest, India, while browsing this book. A couple of my friends who went to America, at the time I migrated to Bombay, made it good, settled their children there itself and have returned to their nest, India, like birds driven by their instinct! I asked, why at this old age. "America was my Karma Bhoomi, but India is my Janma Bhoomi."

Of course, I agreed with him but reminded him that for his children, America is their Janma Bhoomi and also Karma Bhoomi. I could see him grinning from molar to molar, happy!

Narendra Modi

Kahlil Gibran

John F. Kennedy

The statement of the late President of America John F. Kennedy made in his 1961 inaugural speech 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country' was borrowed from an article written by Kahlil Gibran addressed to his people in the Middle East (West Asia for us). Now, may our politicians, who are one of the future, who are willing to come into the light and who will ask themselves what they can do for their country, please stand up?

Thinking of a bird, I could not help thinking of wings. And this led me into the thoughts of Kahlil Gibran, who spoke of "broken wings." Can a bird fly with broken wings? I am saddened because my country today is like a bird with broken wings. Earlier, these very wings were there flapping but the bird was flying in a wrong direction.

A bird with broken wings cannot fly. But who broke the wings? Resistance to the new Modi Government began in the very first year of its statutory 5-year term. It began with contempt for the Prime Minister of our country which also belongs to these contemners.

It all began with a Congress honcho assuring the partymen, just before the 2014 elections, that Narendra Modi a tea-seller in his younger days could never become a Prime Minister. If at all, after the elections, Modi could be given some space in AICC Office premises to continue his petty business of selling tea.

This was followed by the ruckus in the JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University), a beehive of Nehru-Gandhi and Leftist ideologues, with young students in their most impressionistic age.

No wonder, voices against Modi were heard. Slogans like *"Punjivad se lenge Azaadi', 'Manuvad se lenge Azaadi',.... 'Bhrashtachar se lenge Azaadi', 'Bhukmari se lenge Azaadi',...'Kashmir ke log sangharsh karo, hum tumhare saath hain', 'Afzal Guru zindabad',* etc., were raised.

This was soon followed by 'Intolerance' related to cow protection issue and beef-eating. Muslims, no doubt, were targeted by the saffron brigade by taking law into their own hands. Complaints were heard that no action was taken against these self-proclaimed cow-vigilantes. The BJP Governments in the States and at the Centre seemed covertly supporting these goons. No wonder, soon this led to 'award-wapsi.'

The paradox was that these awards were doled out by the Congress and UPA Government and these protesting intellectuals had to face the predicament when the BJP-NDA Government of Modi said, "Well, we did not give you those awards."

The most despicable, vituperative, mean and condemnable abuse at Prime Minister Modi came again from that same old Congress honcho who had said that a tea-seller could never become the Prime Minister of India. He called Modi a *"Neech"* in Hindi. The Opposition party must oppose, but this is abuse.

There must be dissent in a healthy democracy. But to oppose what is good for the people and the country is to commit harakiri. Take the Bills on GST and Triple Talaq. The Talaq Bill in contrast to Shah Bano Bill passed by the Congress is a blessing for the Muslim women. Opposing a Bill because one is in the Opposition is not democracy. Democracy means dissent, debate and then decision.

Be that as it may, today I must ask the Congress, the Leftists and the BJP three questions inspired from the wisdom gained reading Kahlil Gibran.

They are:

1. Today in India there are two leaders: one of the **past** and one of the **future**. Which one are you?

2. Come close, let me be assured by your appearance and conduct who you really are. **Are you the one among those coming into the light or one going into the darkness?**

3. Are you a politician asking, 'What your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country?' If you are the first, then you are a parasite; if you are the second, then you are an oasis in a desert.

Should I say more? Yes. We have in our country more politicians who are parasites, exceptions apart, than those who are oasis. In fact, the statement of the late President of America John F. Kennedy made in his 1961 inaugural speech, **'Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country'** was borrowed from an article written by Kahlil Gibran 50 years earlier addressed to his people in the Middle East (West Asia for us).

Now, may our politicians, who are one of the future, who are willing to come into the light and who will ask themselves what they can do for their country, please stand up?

Jai Hind

e-mail
kbg@starofmysore.com

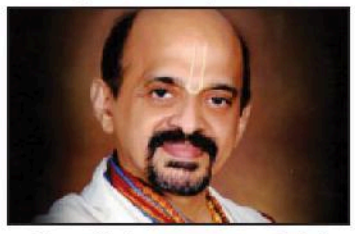
Aradhana Music Concerts

Mysuru, Feb.16- For the Last 17 years, N.R. Mohalla Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysuru, has been organising Thyagaraja and Purandaradasa Aradhana in a befitting manner inviting leading artistes from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to present Karnatak music concerts. So far 34 top artistes have performed during the Aradhana and nearly 170 artistes have ascended the stage of the Sangeetha Sabha for monthly concerts. This year's Aradhana concerts will be held at Sri Prasanna Mahaganapathy Temple, Shivaji Road, N.R. Mohalla, from Feb.16 to 18:

Feb.16 (6.30 pm): Classical Vocal Karnatak Music by Vid. Ramakrishna Murthy of Chennai. He will be accompanied by Vidu. Smitha on violin, Vid. Tumkur B. Ravishankar on mridanga and Vid. G.S. Ramanujam on ghata.

Vid. Ramakrishna Murthy has settled down at Chennai after graduation from California University, USA. He has taken full time to music and he is a great performer. He has won the best musical concert award and best performing artiste from the Music Academy, Chennai, for the last five consecutive years.

Feb.17 (6.30 pm): Karnatak music concert by *Sangeetha Vidyanidhi* **Dr. Vidyabhushana** of Bengaluru. A well-known musician who has released hundreds of CDs and Albums, he is a much sought after musician and a great crowd puller.



He will be accompanied by Vid. H.K. Narasimhamurthy on violin, Vid. H.L. Shivashankaraswamy on mridanga, Vid. C.L. Amarnath on ghata and Vid. S. Nagaraj on tabla.

Feb.18 (9.30 am): Nadaswara; **10.30 am:** Rendering of Thyagaraja and Purandaradasa krithis; **11.20 am:** Felicitation to eminent personalities who have contributed to the cause of music — G.L.N. Ayya of Gnanabharathi, Mysuru, Vid. Koviladi R. Kala, an eminent Karnatak Musician and Vid. Prof. G.S. Ramanujam, a well-known mridanga / ghata artiste; **12.20 pm:** Pancharathna Keerthanas of Saint Thyagaraja in chorus.

VOICE OF THE READER

Prof. Sheik Ali thanks *SOM*

Sir,

Many, many thanks for inviting me to 40th Anniversary Celebrations of *SOM*, which has now attained gentle maturity to throw intensive and meaningful light on vital aspects that confront society. The *STAR* that emerged on the horizon 40 years ago is still radiating its light more brightly than ever before. This print media has done wonders. It has ignited the mind of man to go for facts and reality.

Its invaluable services of four decades igniting our minds and kindling our conscience are all the products of a mighty soul named K.B. Ganapathy. My prayers for your long life, health, strength, happiness, peace and prosperity together with your wish to bloom India to be an oasis of peace in the deserts of conflicts and confrontations.

Secondly, I owe you a debt of gratitude for that exhilarating note on Gandhian Peace Chair in the University. I felt I was fully awarded when at least one man of your stature appreciated my thoughts. Rightly you have hinted values of the University are other than academic. But let us carry on our mission irrespective of thorns on the way.

SOM has upheld the values of the land, the core of which are the dignity of man, the sentiment of the unity of man, and the respect for man. Let this *STAR* shine for ever and ever!

—**Prof. B. Sheik Ali**
Saraswathipuram
12.2.2018

NOTE: *I did not expect to receive any letter from Prof. B. Sheik Ali but what I received was a surprise. I was humbled and to an extent embarrassed too!*

One could not have asked for a testimony par-excellence, if at all, than this one. I felt proud of the great scholar and his nobility in generously showering blessings. For once, I thought I must keep aside my modesty and publish this letter. —**KBG**

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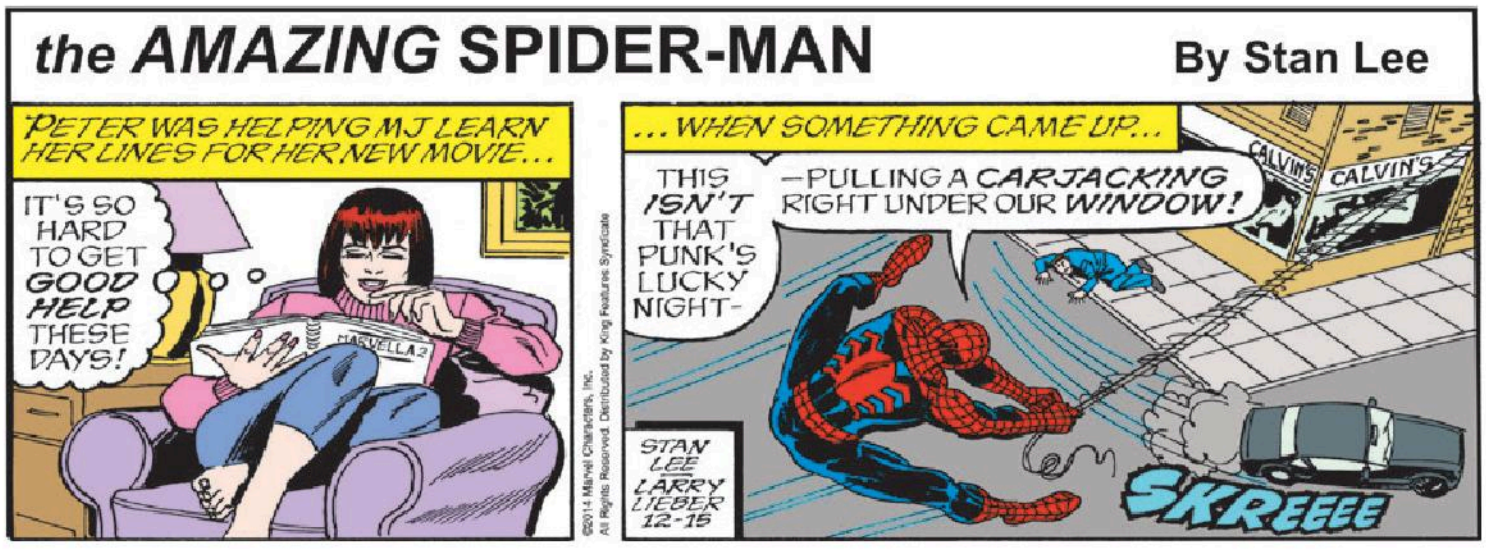
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
By Stan Lee
PETER WAS HELPING MJ LEARN HER LINES FOR HER NEW MOVIE...
IT'S SO HARD TO GET GOOD HELP THESE DAYS!
MARVELLA
...WHEN SOMETHING CAME UP...
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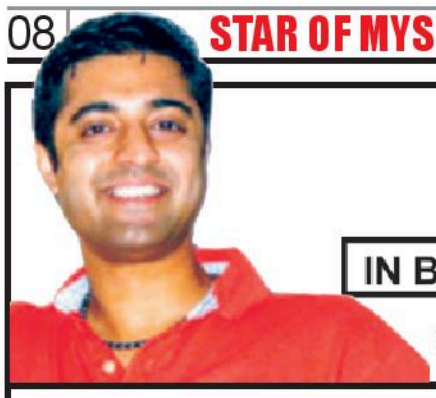

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Stop Spending & Start Mending

The other day I was at my parents' house and decided to clean out my old cupboard when I stumbled upon my old school shoe. It was an old pair of black lace up Bata's. The pair looked like it had gone through multiple surgeries to extend its life; it had white stitches all over and had been resoled.

This reminded me how we used to reuse things. When I was in school if I tore my shoe my mother would take them to a cobbler and have them mended. Back then cobblers enjoyed a regular presence in our life.

Today we have a throwaway culture, especially among the middle and upper middle class who don't care to mend because they have money to spend.

Earlier one would be happy to get their older siblings' clothes. Today younger siblings would be embarrassed to be seen wearing used clothes. Also two decades ago many may remember grandmothers would collect old clothes, cut them up and stitch a blanket.

Before liberalisation, Indians recycled or reused numerous things. In the 1980s, green whiskey bottles were much coveted and would be reused as water bottles or a vase. Today supermarkets offer such a large selection of plastic and glass water bottles that recycling old bottles is no longer appealing.

During my childhood, I remember my father paying a refundable deposit of two rupees for each soda bottle which I would keep an eye on and promptly return to the shop just so that I could buy an ice lolly with the refunded money.

This made me fiscally responsible while being environmental-friendly. But then one day came disposable plastic bottles that put an end to my glass-bottle-initiated economy and, of course, my beloved ice lolly.

Not just green bottles, our parents would even keep old Kissan jam bottles to store condiments in them. Oil would be bought every month in a 5-litre tin box with a pop up lid. This tin box would later be used to store rice and flour.

I remember the chairs in my grandmother's house with a woven cane mesh. When enough strands had snapped, she would call in a man who would spend a few hours and weave a new mesh! Today cane weavers are on the wane.

Kitchen knives would be used for years by giving them a new lease of life every few months. A knife-sharpener would come by on his bicycle and sharpen the knives in just a few minutes. Television sets and mixer-grinders would be repaired. Nowadays, their life span is defined by their warranty period.

The Indian middle class had a culture of mending things before spending on a new one. Hell, we would darn torn clothes. Does anyone darn today? In fact, till just a decade ago, when one's white shirt got a stain, they would simply take it to Sunlight Dry Cleaners and get it dyed black. No one dyes anything today... except perhaps their hair.

People want new things and companies have consciously made sure their products have a limited shelf life. In manufacturing parlance it's called 'built-in obsolescence,' which means designing and manufacturing a product or part so it fails after a certain amount of use. A cell phone is a perfect example. Every year mobile phone companies want you to buy new phones, which are not drastically different. But if you don't want to change your phone, then you are forced to as they upgrade your software, which invariably slows down the phone so that you're left with no choice but to buy a new one.

Could it be that previous generations are more emotional about their possessions because they grew up in a time when choices were limited? My father still listens to the early morning news on a radio he bought in 1974! It has been repaired a few times but it lives on. My mother has not let go of the cane furniture set she bought in 1978 and we still have our Maruti 800 from the 1980s.

People were proud to say how old or how long they've had a particular possession in their life. Today it almost seems like people are embarrassed to have things in their life for too long.

But that is slowly changing with the emergence of a "shared economy." A middle class urban Indian doesn't really need a car today. They can simply Uber. If you are driving out of town they can rent the best of cars through Zoomcar. If you are travelling to another place, Airbnb is a great way to find affordable accommodation or one can even stay for free using CouchSurfing. Even for clothes there are numerous apps like 'share wardrobe' where you can exchange clothes! Mysuru's 'Trin Trin' bicycle sharing system works on a similar concept.

India used to have a circular economy — reusing resources till we have extracted the maximum value from them. This attitude to reuse things still exists in the lower strata of society, but hopefully with technology and a renewed interest in the environment it will spring back among the middle class. The government also can do its bit like the Swedish government, which gives tax breaks to people who repair and reuse their old things.

For now we are still sliding towards a throwaway economy by buying things we use for short periods of time only to upgrade to the latest versions. In the process, we have ended up being wasteful, debt-ridden and perpetually in a state of discontentment, as we feel defined by what we have.

There is pride in having old things. Fixing what is broken is a virtue. Hopefully, we will go back to the days of 'first mending before spending' — after all, a penny saved is a penny earned.

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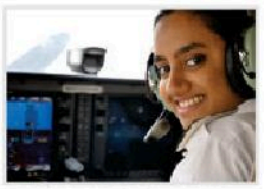
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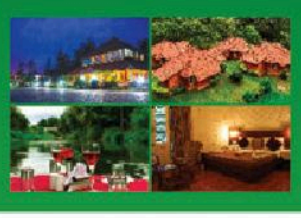

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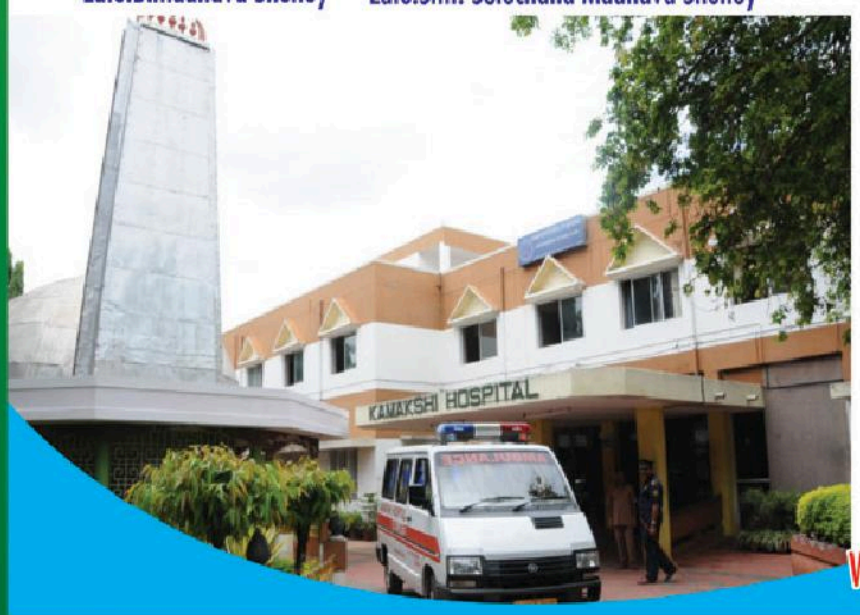

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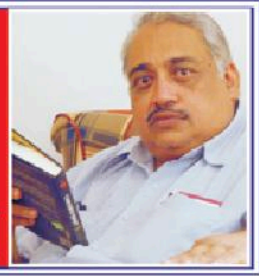
Over a cup of evening Tea



By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

Stealing their childhood from our children

[Our education policy-makers and parents may benefit by reading this article. —Ed]

This is that time of the year when I see anxious parents regularly walking into my clinic with their young, school and college-going children who seem to be suffering from some very perplexing symptoms, very refractory to treatment. Very often I am the third or even fourth doctor whom they have decided to consult in a state of utter desperation and anxiety. Yes, their anxiety seems very justified as their children seem to have chosen the wrong time to fall sick exactly when they are expected to be in their best state of health to face the examinations that are just round the corner.

What most parents, children and sometimes even the doctors they meet fail to realise is that the problem they are dealing with is purely an array of stress-induced somatic symptoms. A very important indicator of the correctness of this diagnosis lies in the fact that our youngsters never report such symptoms during the rest of the academic year. These symptoms surface only during examination time and they may range from something as simple as frequent headaches, lack of sleep, lack of appetite, mild giddiness to bizarre and often frightening nightmares and panic attacks, overt depression and suicidal tendencies.

Yes, very often it is a friend of the affected boy or girl who informs the parents that their child has confided in them that he or she is thinking of ending his or her life in utter desperation at not being able to cope with the stress of studies that simply seem too demanding. As a physician when I see such cases with alarming regularity, counsellors and child psychologists may be seeing them in much greater numbers which should be a cause for concern and the need for us to wake up and take note of the magnitude and seriousness of this problem.

Unfortunately we do not seem to be doing this which is a very sad state of affairs indeed. We seem to have accepted the fact that this is a fall

out of the normal stress that is born out of the process of education which some students are unable to bear comfortably. But the fact that is being missed here is that this stress which has been almost non-existent a few decades ago has been increasing steadily over the passing years.

Today, studying hard has become the only mantra for success in life. Your children's grades decide which professional courses they enter, their performance there decides whether they enter into postgraduate courses or not and these postgraduate streams decide how well they fish for jobs in the river of life. We seem to have all somehow decided that this is how life has to be. Any child who decides not to join this race is looked down upon as being mediocre.

So we end up making our children highly successful, highly stressed, highly insensitive, angry young men and women, intolerant towards each other's success or completely depressed zombies who are unable to understand why they exist in an unfair world. Today, children are burdened with such heavy academic syllabi that many of them are simply forced to commit everything to memory without being able to understand what they are studying. That is why it is said that nearly eighty percent of our technically qualified youngsters are unemployable unless they are re-trained in the tiny domain in which they are put to work.

I do not see when all the higher mathematical and physical concepts that our children are forced to learn during their high school days come into use for them. In our country all students who go through high school have the same curriculum irrespective of what subject or courses they later pursue in college. So is it not a complete waste of time and energy to make them study complex and often incomprehensible subjects like Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus beyond the basic mathematics that they are going to need in daily life?

Do any of them except the few that make it to technical courses need to imbibe these concepts when they could be using the same time and energy to imbibe the wisdom necessary to make them better and more sensitive human beings? In fact it is this burden that has become the main cause for the millions of school dropouts that we are seeing in our country now. But we fail to correct this problem because we have not thought of ushering in a high school syllabus that lets the students choose what they relish and are useful in what they pursue later in life.

In the good old days we never had heavy school bags. There used to be the good old, fat, rough note book that was the back-bone of all our learning and half a dozen text books and note books, put together for that day's subjects. The total weight used to be about a kilogram at most, going by the fact that our school bags used to double up as our weapons to lash out at each other in times of anger and also to often serve us as our throw balls during times of joy! Today an average school bag weighs anywhere between six to eight kilograms. This is an accepted fact, derived from much research and many people have even done their Ph.Ds with this as the subject of their study, without anyone having done anything to mitigate the suffering of the children whose backs the school bag is bending or breaking. And, every school child has to lug this inhuman burden on his or her back, like a porter while making it to school and the classrooms which can often be reached only after painfully climbing as many as four flights of stairs.

Is it not ironical and even shameful that in this era of digital learning our children are still burdened by tools of medieval schooling? Can they not learn their lessons with the help of handy and light-weight tablets that can be programmed to carry the entire syllabus of the academic year? Can they not then do their homework through interactive lessons and carry just one notebook to acquire and hone their writing skills? And why do we not let our children enjoy their holidays in complete peace. Why do we kill the joy that should rightfully belong to them by giving them tons and tons of homework that never seems to end even after the holidays themselves draw to an end? It is nothing short of a cruel and criminal act. Has anyone campaigning against cruelty to children, ever bothered to ask what children's holidays are for if they have no time and peace of mind to enjoy them happily?

During my school days all holidays were meant only for fun and relaxation and nothing else. They were meant for chasing squirrels and clambering upon fruit trees or cuddling up in grandparents' laps and listening to stories of brave kings and pretty queens, surrounded by mystical elves and fairies! I never remember feeling overburdened by what I had to study although I did encounter some difficulty in comprehending certain topics. Although I had many classmates who were labelled very 'dull' by some teachers I never saw them feeling stressed out, let alone depressed over their dullness. On the contrary they enjoyed it when their performance which was ridiculed by our teachers became a source of entertainment for the rest of the class!

They happily took their mediocrity in their stride and the very unbelievable truth is that today every one of them is doing much better in life than most of us who had very focussed goals for the future and, therefore, pored over our books, burning the midnight oil! But let me make it very clear here that all through my student days I studied only by natural daylight! There never was a single examination for which I prepared by losing any sleep. **In fact it was actually my parents who lost their sleep, worried over the fact that I was not losing mine!**

While I was in medical college at Kalaburagi, on the day before my surgery examination, unknown to most of my teachers, I was a hundred miles away at Raichur completely engrossed in photographing the total solar eclipse that took place on 16th February, 1980. Because it lay in the region of its totality, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) had set up a camp there to study and document the eclipse and there was just no way I could let them do it without my help!

My justification for this rather foolhardy act was that it was the first total solar eclipse of the twentieth century visible from India and while the next surgery examination would come back in just six months a total solar eclipse would never come to India till 24th October, 1995 and for it to come to the place where I lived it would take more than my lifetime! Now, how is that for a stress-free attitude?

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Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

Dance of Enchantress

The word 'Apsara' is derived from the root 'apsa' which means water. Apsaras were nymphs who slipped away from the grasp of man, like water from a clenched fist. They were sent by the Devas to beguile and seduce Tapasvins, ascetics who sought to churn spiritual fire (tapa). The point of the seduction was to entrap the ascetics in the material world. Menaka was one such Apsara who seduced Kaushika, a king who was determined to become a sage, liberated from all things material.

Then there is Mohini, the enchanting female form of Vishnu. In appearance, she is just like an Apsara, beguiling and seductive. She enchants even Shiva, the greatest of Tapasvins. But her agenda is different: she seeks to draw attention to the essential role of material things in spiritual life. She facilitates the transformation of Shiva, the indifferent hermit, to Shankara, the benevolent householder.

Menaka and Mohini are the same in appearance. But while Menaka seeks to entrap the sage, Mohini seeks to enlighten the sage. Menaka is indifferent to the spiritual downfall of the Tapasvin, while Mohini balances material growth with spiritual growth. When an organisation is focused on its sales numbers alone, and not the benefit to the customer, they function as Menakas — seductive nymphs serving the shareholders alone. When sales numbers are a consequence of serving or helping a customer, the organisation functions as a Mohini.

Suresh, a High Net Worth Individual, was met by a wealth manager from a prestigious bank. Suresh tried avoiding the individual as he kept getting calls from many such 'wealth managers' but the persistence of this particular gentlemen impressed him greatly and he agreed to meet him one Friday afternoon.

Chandrahas was an amiable young man who impressed Suresh with his style and sincerity. He then proceeded to present his bank's offerings to Suresh — how they would manage his assets and investments in various debt and equity funds. Suresh liked the approach and considered signing on. Then he asked Chandrahas the question, "Are you interested in managing my wealth or achieving your bank's target?" Chandrahas was tongue-tied. What could he say? Weren't the two objectives the same? They were supposed to be but he was not entirely sure.

While Suresh liked Chandrahas, the person, he knew the lad was but a cog in the banking wheel, a Menaka sent out to beguile and entice clients to achieve the bank's goal. Once within the bank's network, he would be subjected to standard banking processes and rules, like any other individual. All special attention given to him at the time of signing him on would disappear. Suddenly he would be reduced to a customer number and be subjected to the impersonal automated telephone responses. Chandrahas was merely doing his job — signing on the client. He was a tool in a larger game, a game that did not really care for Suresh; it cared only for his wealth.

What Suresh wanted was a Mohini. Someone who genuinely took care of his wealth and was not merely interested in meeting the sales targets of a particular bank or institution, someone who did not push his bank's products in the name of wealth management, someone who did not shove an insurance policy down his throat with an eye on the commission alone.

The reference point for Menaka's agenda is the Deva; she works to please her masters. The reference point of Mohini's agenda is the Tapasvin himself; she cares for his growth. Chandrahas would like to be a Mohini, genuinely help the client grow his wealth, but his employers insist he serve as Menaka, bag the client with the sole intention of gaining access to his wealth.

When an organisation is focused on its sales numbers alone, and not the benefit to the customer, they function as Menakas — seductive nymphs serving the shareholders alone. When sales numbers are a consequence of serving or helping a customer, the organisation functions as a Mohini.

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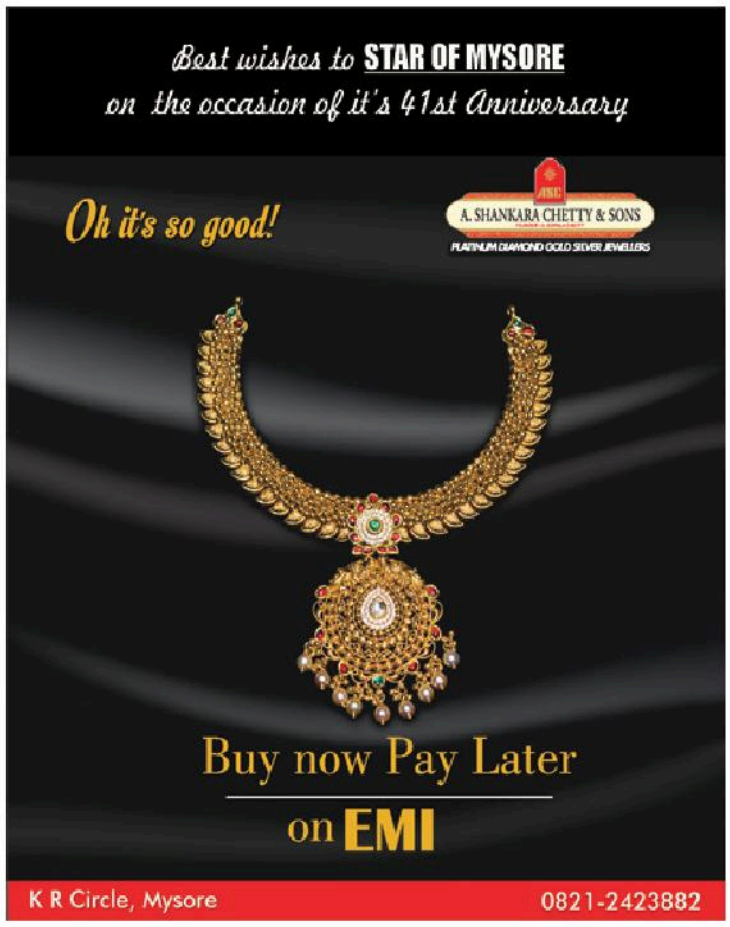
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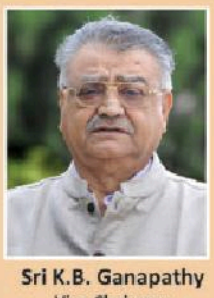

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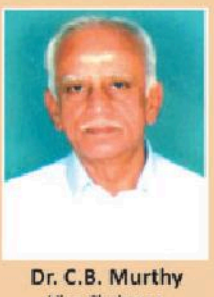

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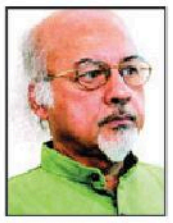
China: Close to superpowerdom, but...



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

Xiaomi's 2017 growth was higher than that of Apple, Samsung and Huawei combined. Oppo (as new as 2004) and Vivo (2009) are shaking up the leadership ranks in the mobile world. As many as 19 Chinese phone manufacturing companies dominate India, unmindful of Jio.

Confidence, authoritativeness and clear warning signals echoed from China's published statements on the Maldives crisis. Keep off, it tells the UN. Any military intervention will be strongly resisted, it tells India. This is the new China rising to world leadership at a speed that is both remarkable and worrying.

Usually China does this quietly with no grand-standing. This was seen recently with deep-sea spying equipment in the Pacific Ocean. Powerful acoustic censors were planted in two strategic spots, one in the deepest point on earth at 10,916 meters below sea level. Both spots are near Guam, the largest American military base in Asia. With listening range of more than 1,000 kms, the censors can track submarine movements and intercept underwater signals. A leading US strategic expert underplayed it by saying that such things were standard practice. But he admitted: "China has become a great power and is acting like one." Two months ago, China revealed a new intercontinental missile system that was to be deployed in the first half of this year. Able to carry up to ten warheads that can be manoeuvred separately and with a range of up to 15,000 kms, "the missile can hit every corner of the earth" according to a Chinese military expert. "All targets in the continental United States," clarified an Australian strategic expert. China is also into building its third aircraft carrier with a new aircraft launching technology.

What deserves special attention is that China is developing its soft-power superiority with the same diligence it bestows on its military prowess. In 2013, it launched its ambitious One Belt One Road project. The visionary zeal that prompted it was seen again in 2016 when the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was launched, reducing the importance of the US-influenced World Bank and the status of the US dollar as an international currency.

Add to this the success it has registered on the business front. Alibaba is now a household name around the world, and not because of the forty thieves. Xiaomi's 2017 growth was higher than that of Apple, Samsung and Huawei combined. Oppo (as new as 2004) and Vivo (2009) are shaking up the leadership ranks in the mobile world. As many as 19 Chinese phone manufacturing companies dominate India, unmindful of Jio.

America loves to talk of China being a copy-cat economy. Donald Trump has launched an investigation into Chinese "theft" of US intellectual property. In 2013, there were reports that China had successfully hacked 24 major weapons systems in the US. There may be truth in all these. But the ultimate truth is Success. And China is Success. The political-business success China has already scored is prompting it to look into brave new frontiers of science.

The Beijing government is putting more money into the Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry than any other government. By 2030, it wants an AI industry worth $150 billion. Intelligent video and smart cameras are being developed without the privacy concerns of democratic countries. The development of electric-car technology is moving at a hurried pace.

Beijing is also moving to end American leadership in the computer-chip industry. As much as $22 billion is already pledged to develop advanced memory chips.

President Xi Jinping's timeline for China's superpower status is 2049. He seems well on his way despite China's notorious weaknesses — pollution, the internal contradiction between free-market economy and communist controls, political tensions in border provinces, even overpopulation. It is the Government's no-nonsense approach to social control that keeps the problems under the lid. What worries the outside world is the brusqueness with which Beijing enforces its will over the weak.

South China Sea is the most disturbing example of this. China used its military force to get control of islands off Vietnamese and Philippine coasts. Some shoals in the sea have been developed into military bases. The International Court's ruling against Chinese claims has been ignored. American warships testing freedom-of-navigation routes have been warned against entering "Chinese Waters." Indian vessel en route to Vietnam's ports have been cautioned. Where's India in all this? Delhi did make a show of friendship to ASEAN countries on Republic Day. But these are countries unnerved by Chinese assertiveness. Delhi's alliance with the US and Japan has come unstuck with the US virtually giving up on Asia and Japan turning into an active negotiating partner with Beijing. India in fact looks blissfully out of the picture. Perhaps it will get back into it after achieving its priority objective of getting Hindi recognised in the UN.

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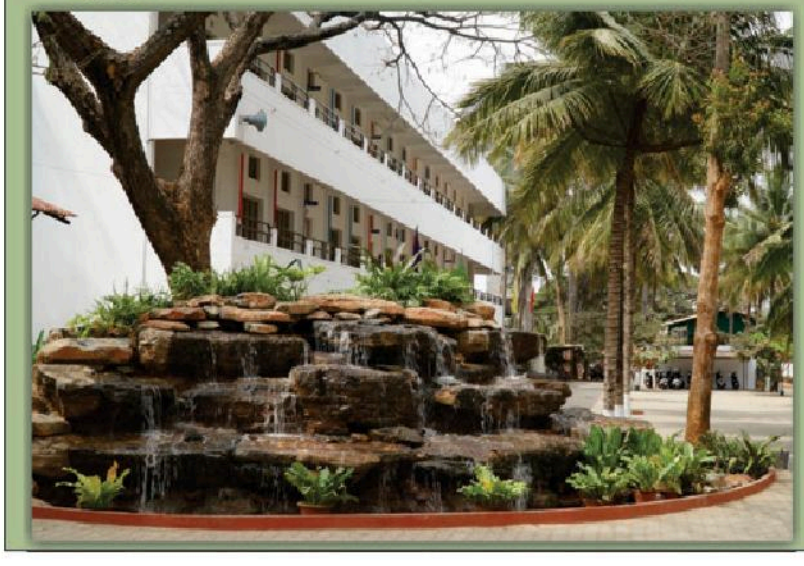

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Shop at Day & Night Market for a cause

Mysuru, Feb.16 - Ladies Circle India has organised *La Marqueta Carnaval,* the first-ever Day and Night Market, on the lawns of *Windflower Resort and Spa* at the foot of Chamundi Hill in city on Feb.17 from 12 noon onwards into the night.

La Marqueta is a carnival of curated shopping, food and entertainment experience from all over the country.

The Managing Director of the event and member of the organising team of Ladies Circle India, Nidhi Shah said, "We want to create a unique experience by bringing in brands that have never been showcased in Mysuru. Brands like *The Summer House, Flames of the Forest, House of Eka, Viseasha* and *Quirksmith,* to name a few, have the aesthetic that the youth of this city is looking for. We also have DJs performing throughout the day, popular food trucks from Bengaluru coming in, a headlining music act and much more."

What makes this event unique is the fact that it is all for a charitable cause. The proceeds will go towards the Ladies Circle India Charitable Organisation.

Mysore Ladies Circle-9 is one of the oldest chapters in this organisation. Known for their unrelenting efforts in educating the underprivileged, Mysore Ladies Circle-9 hopes to draw the attention to their cause *"Educate to Enlighten"* through this mega event.

Pre-implantation Genetic Screening: A Ray of Hope for Childless Couples

Are you in the bracket of advanced maternal age couples? Are repeated miscarriages haunting you? Are multiple failed IVF cycles adding to your anxiety and prolonging your quest for pregnancy? Are you worried about chromosomal abnormalities? If the answer is yes to any of the above queries, you need not be worried anymore as there are new-options and treatment procedures that will address each of the above specifically and provides a ray of hope for a successful parenting experience.

Gunasheela Assisted Reproductive Centre, Mysore, a wing of Gunasheela Surgical & Maternity Hospital, Bangalore – a pioneer that has introduced several firsts in the field of Infertility and Gynecology, has launched PGS (Pre-Implantation Genetic Screening) services at its centre. The centre will offer for the first time in India the cutting edge & revolutionary technology of PGS – a procedure designed to examine embryos for chromosomal abnormalities before implantation.

The PGS technology is a way of selecting the best embryos which have a higher chance of survival and translating into a healthy pregnancy even before the embryos are transferred into the womb, using the highly sophisticated technology of the Next Generation Sequencing Platform. This procedure goes a long way in reducing the likelihood of miscarriages; decreases the risk of abnormal pregnancies; reduces the amount of time & additional costs incurred with multiple IVF cycles and increase the likelihood of a pregnancy with single embryo transfers (eSET).

Dr. Devika Gunasheela, Managing Director & Fertility Specialist, Gunasheela Hospital, Mysore and Bangalore, said, "PGS is a boon particularly for advanced maternal age couples and families who have had recurrent pregnancy losses both naturally and through IVF. We have achieved a pregnancy through a single frozen embryo transfer after a PGS procedure done within 24 hours. A frozen embryo was thawed, cultured into a blastocyst and then biopsied to do PGS. The PGS was done in a record time of 24 hours in our own in-house lab, the first of its kind in the country. This single embryo was transferred and resulted in a successful pregnancy."

Preimplantation Genetic Screening (PGS) Facts

- PGS can reduce the time to a live birth by selecting only euploid embryos
- PGS can reduce the incidence of miscarriage
- Transfer of single euploid embryos gives the maximum chance of a live birth whilst minimizing the risk of a multiple pregnancy
- PGS is recommended for women above 37 years of age, couples with a family history of chromosome problems, recurrent miscarriages, repeated IVF failures & severe male factor infertility
- The procedure also goes a long way in reducing the likelihood of miscarriage; decreases the risk of abnormal pregnancy; reducing the amount of time & additional costs inferred with multiple IVF cycles and increases the likelihood of pregnancy with single embryo transfers (eSET).

Dr. Devika Gunasheela

For more information, please contact:
Gunasheela Reproductive Centre, Kuvempunagar, Mysore.
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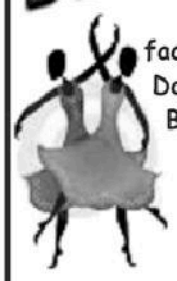

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Shilpi Cup
cricket tourney from tomorrow

Prof. Nagabhushan

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (KS)- Builders' Association of India (BAI), Mysore Centre, has organised Shilpi Cup - 2018 cricket tournament on Feb. 17 and 18 at SJCE grounds in city. SJCE Principal Prof. T.N. Nagabhushan will be the chief guest and inaugurate the event at 9 am. MBCT, Mysuru Chairman B.R. Badrinath will be the guest of honour.

The valedictory of the tournament will be held on Feb. 18 at 5 pm at the same venue. Vice-Chancellor of JSS Science and Technology University Dr. B.G. Sangameshwara will be the chief guest.

BAI State Chairman S.R. Swamy will be the guest of honour. BAI, Mysore Centre Chairman S. Mahadevaswamy will preside.

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Grit & Determination, thy name is woman

By Sujata Rajpal

Did you know that the broad waist band that the pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple tie is manufactured at a small unit in Mysuru? Did you also know that a woman is the Managing Partner of this 'small' unit called Premier Polymers? Ironical isn't it that an essential part of the devotees' attire is manufactured under the supervision of a woman whose gender is denied entry to the temple!

Aruna Devi, a Chartered Engineer with Master's in Computer Applications, made Mysuru her home in 1987 when she got married to D. Naresh Kumar (late), a Chartered Accountant. A few years later she ventured into business with her brother-in-law D. Mahesh Kumar as the Managing Partner of National Nylon Fabrics and Premier Polymers. National Nylon Fabrics located at Belagola and Premier Polymers located at Hebbal Industrial area are the only two units in South India to manufacture the soft woven fabric used in textiles, footwear and various other industries. The units manufacture gripper for men's trousers, straps for footwear, seat belts and other similar products.

Not enough to stimulate her entrepreneurial bug, the feisty woman started Surabhi Software, a software development and computer training institute at Gokulam. Today, Aruna has more than 30 years of industrial experience as a successful entrepreneur and 10 years as an academician at the University of Mysore and Amrita University. Besides being an IT corporate facilitator for senior officials of industries and post-graduate students, she dedicates her time to the activities of innumerable industry bodies that she is a part of — IEI, CSI, ISTE, IEAE, IAENG (Hong Kong), MCCI, CII, MIA and WISE. Being the only certified Tally Facilitator in Mysuru, she has her hands full. Aruna is the recipient of many awards such as Best Women Entrepreneur - IEI (1999), Best Woman Achiever - FKCCI (2013) and Successful Woman Industrialist - DIC & GoK (2016).

In these times of high attrition, National Nylon Fabric and Premier Polymers, which have 12 skilled workers each take pride in having zero attrition. The unskilled workers were trained on the job and most of them have continued to stay on. Though these are separate units, they are interlinked in terms of use of raw material, products made and skill-sets required. When needed, the employees are shuffled. When I ask her if it is difficult to switch her mind from manufacturing to software units quickly as she goes about her work in her three ventures, she shakes her head delicately before replying. "Though different type of skills are needed for manufacturing and software industry, all one needs is an analytical mind to handle anything."

"Life is all about making the most of every opportunity and I intend to live it up with enthusiasm and passion."
— The feisty woman entrepreneur Aruna Devi

I listen agog as Aruna eagerly talks about her eighteen-hour work routine. She had always enjoyed her work but after the demise of her husband, she fully dedicated herself into it. Her day starts early with working on the software projects, students walking in any time, punctuated by a trip or two to the manufacturing units. 'I don't have to visit the manufacturing units everyday as I am only the Managing Partner there but Surabhi Software is totally my baby requiring my complete attention,' she tells beaming a modest smile. 'Moreover, I run my software institute from home so I can afford to devote more time to my work,' she adds. It is common for students to drop by in the evenings and stay on till late into the night.

Eighteen hours of work day on all seven days. But what does she do to relax, to unwind, I want to know. In response, she narrows her eyes as if trying to comprehend the question. "My work is my passion so I don't feel the need to unwind in any other way. Working is relaxing for me," Aruna tells with an unmistakable glint in her eyes.

Hailing from Haryana and brought up in Coimbatore, it is only almost at the end of the interview she reveals that she is the only engineer on her side of the family. "Ours is a very conservative family. Education is not given importance. Forget girls, even boys don't study beyond school. They take over the business but I was adamant on going to college. I refused to eat food until I was given permission to pursue higher studies,' she reveals. 'Ultimately the family had to give in.'

She admits after she was given permission to study, a few others in the family followed suit though not engineering. That was three decades ago but even today except her own children there are no engineers or doctors on her side of the family.

Fifty-four-year-old Aruna has two children — son Rohit Gupta, a senior consultant at Deloitte, US, is married to Vishu Karnwal and daughter Surabhi Gupta is a doctor and preparing for her entrance exam for Master's ▪

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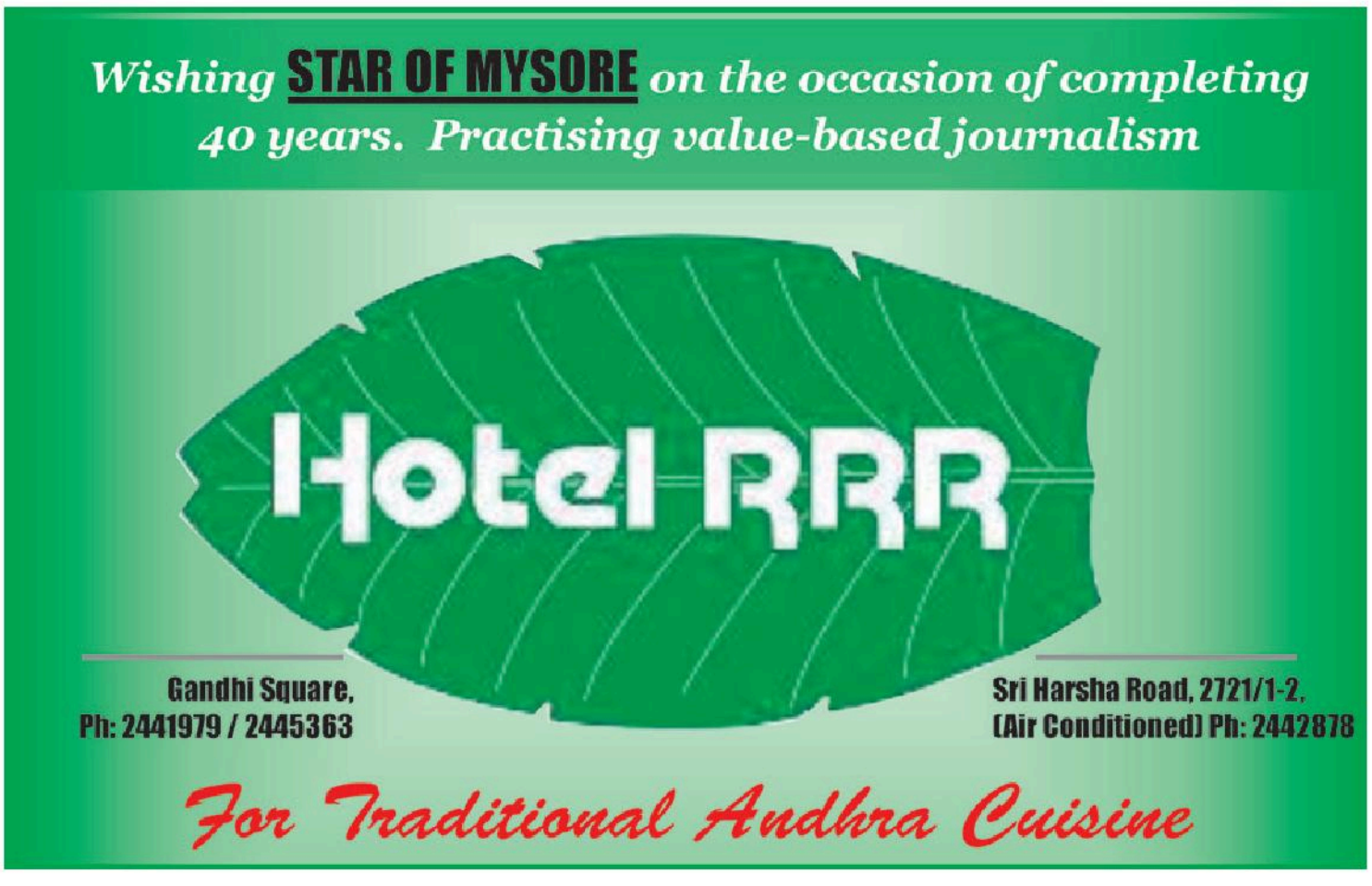
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On a MISSION to feed the hungry

By S. Kenneth Shishir

While most people of his age and below prefer to sleep till the sun rises, **70-year-old M. Lalith Kumar Kothari Jain,** a resident of Thyagaraja Road in K.R. Mohalla in city, wakes up at 4 am every day and gets ready to feed the poor, the needy and the strays.

He says: "God has given me everything and what is the use of earning money when it is not useful to someone in distress or hungry."

Lalith Kumar, after his prayers, a long walk and yoga session, sets off on his scooter to purchase food packets comprising chow-chow bath, rice bath, idli and vada from one Najundappa, who owns a hotel on Basaveshwara Road and from Lakshmi Tiffanis, popular as Mallesh Hotel on Thyagaraja Road.

Lalith Kumar, who owns Manik Bankers on Thyagaraja Road, has been offering food and sometimes clothes to the poor and the needy in city since over 15 years.

Armed with about 80 to 90 food packets and about 250 biscuit packets packed in huge bags and suspended on his scooter, the septuagenarian first heads towards Thyagaraja Road Sai Baba Temple, Raghavendraswamy Mutt at Krishnamurthypuram, Raghavendraswamy Temple near Shanthala Theatre and proceeds towards Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple. At each stop, he hands over the food packets to the needy people who wait for him regularly. From there, Lalith moves to Doddakere Maidan and parks his scooter there. Seeing him, one may wonder what this man does in the open ground. He just presses his scooter's horn and lo, a pack of about 25-30 dogs come from all directions and stand near him, wagging tails with ears bent.

[Continued on page 25]

MEALS ON WHEELS: ***Lalith Kumar Kothari on his mission to feed the poor.***

Best wishes to

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He stands on ONE FOOT to live life to the fullest

Only when a man is suffering, he will start to think out-of-the-box to come out of it, goes an old adage. Here is a physically challenged person who has mastered the art of closing tyre punctures. So perfect he is in this strenuous job that he would put to shame any normal person doing the same job. With simple techniques, he has perfected his job that he does with ease. What stands out in him is his will power and grit.

By V. Shourabh

Meet 40-year-old **Ghouse Modhin,** who is physically challenged. He repairs punctured tyres at Sagar Auto Parts on Madhava Char Road near Nanjumalige Circle in Mysuru. He repairs punctures efficiently and with ease while standing on his only leg.

His disability has not let him down as he has taken it positively and considers himself blessed that he has the strength to repair punctures and eke out a living. He is a source of inspiration to many people out there who constantly crib, blame and find faults in their stars or fate. He shows them how to lead life to the fullest with what God has given to them. It is rightly said that if you ignore the sense of injury or disability, the injury itself disappears. And Ghouse is a living example for this.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Ghouse Modhin, said, "I learnt how to close tyre punctures since I was about five years old. I have an experience of almost 35 years. I was working at a repair shop at Siddappa Square earlier. Since the past two years, I have been working here at Sagar Auto Parts.

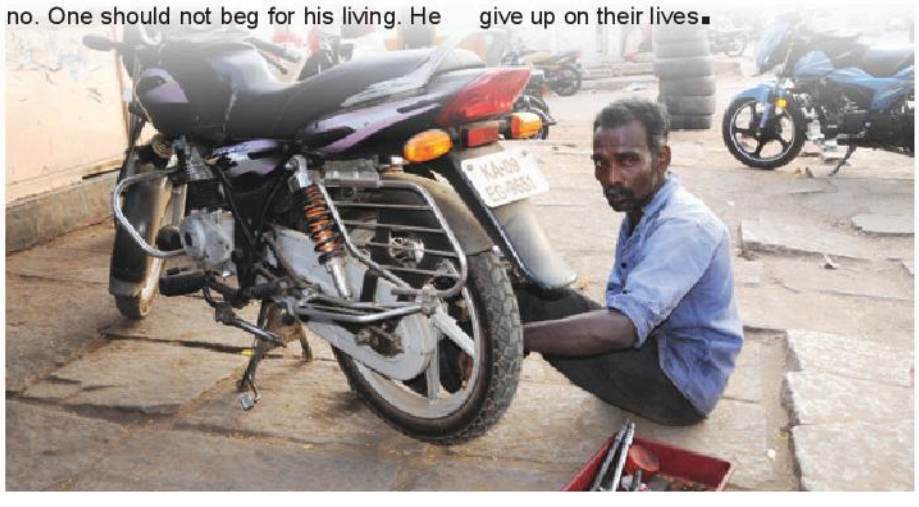
"Despite being physically challenged, I never considered myself unlucky or inferior. I was determined to make the most of my life. I always work hard with determination and I want to stand on my foot and live life to the fullest. I could have turned to begging for survival. But no. One should not beg for his living. He should work hard and earn his livelihood. Only such a life will give you an inner satisfaction and respect in the society."

Ghouse has been repairing tyre punctures of scooters, autos and cars single-handedly. Limping on his single foot, he happily repairs the blunt tyres of his customers. He adds, "I do not find any difficulty. I can easily remove tyres of scooters and cars all by myself and restore the damaged tyres. I do not repair the punctures of the tyres of buses and lorries."

With no education to his name, he struggles to communicate with his customers. He said that he uses thumb impression at banks as his identity to withdraw and deposit money. He manages his family with the earnings he gets from the repair shop and the monthly aid he receives from the Government.

Ghouse and his wife have a 3-year-old son and he hopes to give his son proper education which he was robbed off during his childhood. Polio-afflicted Ghouse added that it would be of great use to his family if the Government provides additional medical benefits.

Repairing punctured tyres is no child's play. It requires physical strength, hard work and technique. However, Ghouse is a man who is driven by his mental strength and abilities as he gracefully repairs the tyres with a smile creeping on his face. He is determined to continue this profession for the rest of his life. He stands as a role model to many and is a source of inspiration to those who easily give up on their lives.



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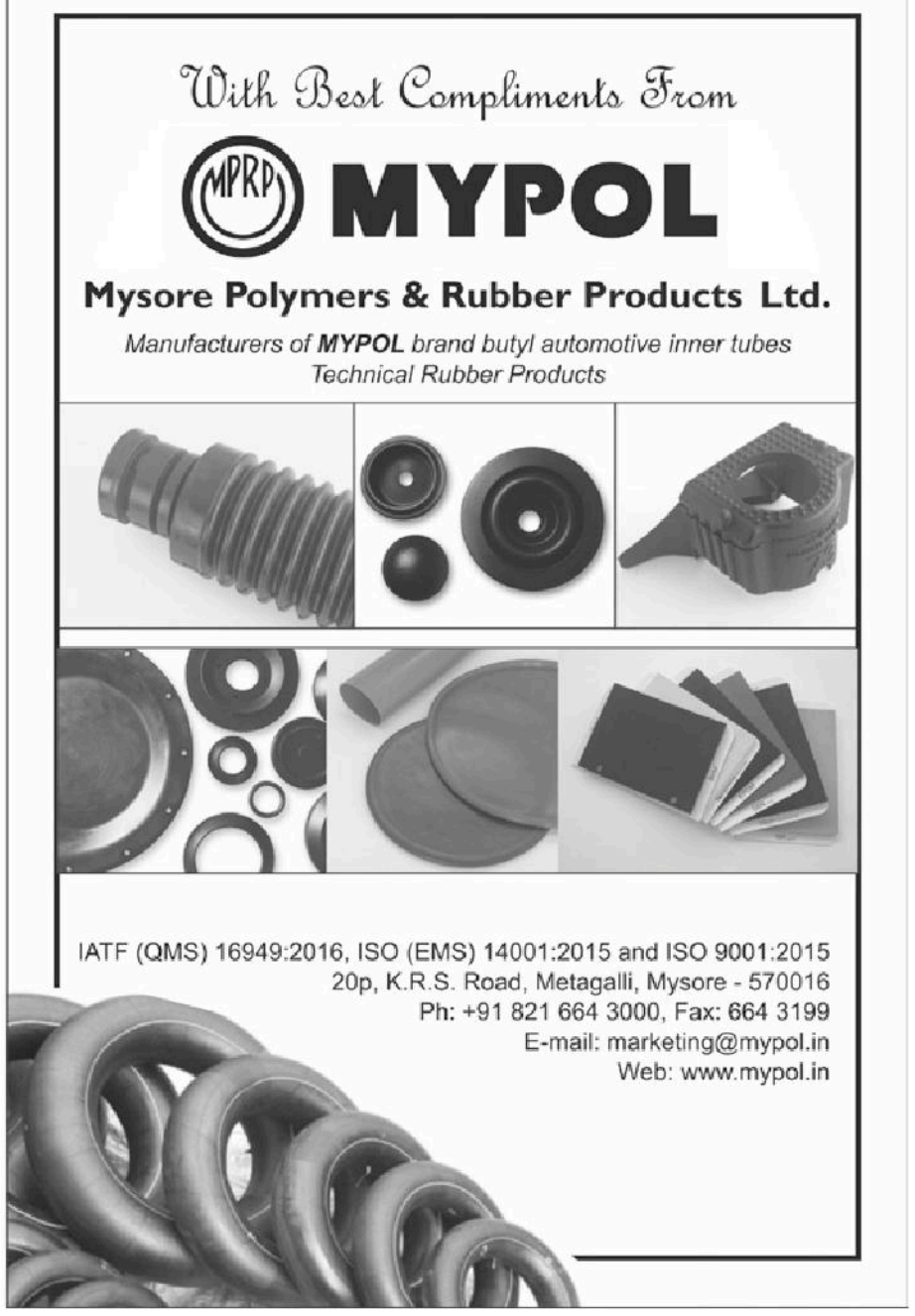
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The Royal Mysore Tiger

Tiger Balaji (in red) officiating as Referee during the Vajra Mushti Kalaga at Mysore Palace during Dasara-2017. [Pic. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

... now an Auto Driver!

By V. Shourabh

The Jetties of Mysuru have been continuously following their traditional practice of Indian wrestling or *Kusti* which has been an integral part of Mysuru and Dasara festivities. **Tiger Balaji** is one such prominent figure, who has dedicated his life for wrestling. He was trained at 'Bhoothappana Garadi' and has been one of the greatest wrestlers of Mysuru. Being the son of M.R. Sudarshan, an Olympic champion in weight-lifting, athleticism and discipline is evident in his blood.

His journey to reach the heights of wrestling is admirable for the amount of sacrifice and energy he has put in. But his efforts and laurels haven't received much recognition from the government. His career statistics speak for themselves as he has lost only three bouts or battles out of the 150-plus matches that he has played.

He says, "It is very sad to see that those people who lost to me in the *akhada* have received Kannada Rajyotsava State Award and I'm yet to receive one. I have been at my best in every fight and have managed to win almost all of them."

The 58-year-old Pehlwan came into professional wrestling in 1980 and took the then Mysore Maharaja by surprise. Balaji was an aggressive wrestler and once on the field, he would make life difficult for his competitor. Impressed by his wrestling abilities, late Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar conferred on him the title "*Tiger Balaji.*" He peaked in his career from 1980 to 1988 and earned laurels as he defeated several mainstream wrestlers (Pehlwans) like Mohammed, Iqbal, Vijendra, Mukund, Mysore Kitty, Harihar Mehboob, Prakash Bildar Bombay, etc. He has also been trained by Mysore Mooga Pehlwan. There is a fad in Mysuru that whoever has the name Balaji is added with a prefix of 'Tiger' to his name.

During Dasara, on Vijayadashami Day, a wrestling event called *Vajra Mushti Kalaga* is organised at the Palace premises. In this, knuckle-dusters with sharp edges (*Vajra Mushti*) are worn on fists and are used to hit the opponent's forehead and the fight would conclude when the first blood is drawn.

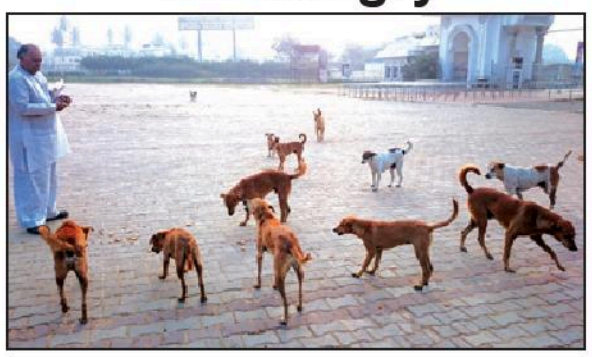
Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Tiger Balaji says, "Traditionally we as Jetties were supposed to take part only in *Vajra Mushti* and the Maharajas used to take care of us. But now that there is no Maharaja, we have entered the *Akhadas* to fight on the red mud."

[Continued on page 36]

"It is very sad to see that those people who lost to me in the *akhada* have received Kannada Rajyotsava Award and I'm yet to receive one. I have been at my best in every fight and have managed to win almost every single of them. I lost only three bouts out of the 150-plus matches."

— Tiger Balaji

On a MISSION to feed the hungry



[Continued from page 21]

Lalith Kumar then opens another bag containing about 300 biscuit packets and feeds about 25 packets to these friendly canines while another pack of about 40 dogs wait for him near the Dasara Exhibition entrance gate. Lalith Kumar also makes sure that no plastic covers or biscuit pack covers are littered in places he feeds. For this purpose, he carries an empty bag where he puts all the empty packets and takes it with him for safe disposal.

People who feed the homeless and the destitute have to possess many skills. Among them is the flair for responding to irate and often violent critics. **The best way to respond to an irate person is to remain silent and smile at them, Lalith says adding that a gentle smile would calm an angry person and remaining silent would not lead to arguments.**

Lalith Kumar travels about 35-40 kilometres in city feeding the hungry, concludes his work for the day at about 11.30 am as he returns to the places where he had offered food packets and collects the leftover which is fed to other animals.

This good Samaritan is focusing his attention on the plight of the hungry and strays and doing his best to feed as many hungry mouths as possible and has also constructed a small concrete tank near his shop for the cattle to quench their thirst.

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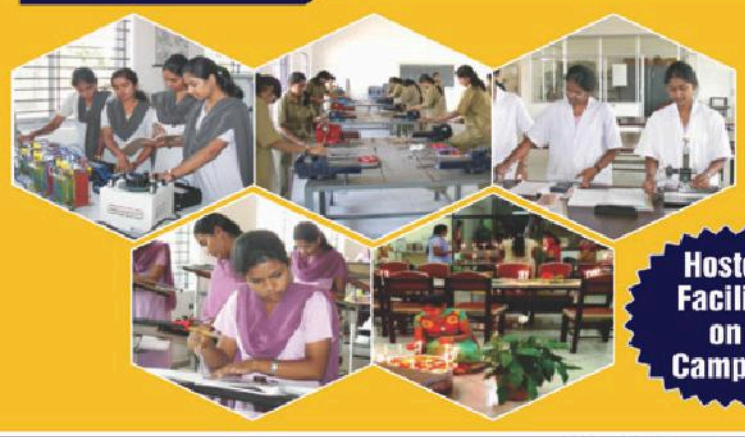

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Life in the 90s

A peep into the daily routine of a

Nonagenarian Legend

Prof. Sheik Ali on his morning stroll in Manasagangothri campus.

By N. Niranjan Nikam

What is age? Just numbers. How true is this adage, especially as one ages, the bones begin to creak, eyesight becomes weak, ears become hard to hear and healthy life dogged by ailments continue.

All these thoughts appear and disappear, as I enter the house of one of the living legends in the city, climb up the stairs and enter the nonagenarian's room in Saraswathipuram.

"I am sorry the house is in a mess. I am getting it painted. Do you see the plaster peeling off? There is so much of work, I think it will go on for another two months," said the man of letters, Prof. B. Sheik Ali, Historian and former Vice-Chancellor of two Universities — Mangalore and Goa.

At 92, Prof. Ali hardly has any wrinkle even when he lifts his eyebrows. His skin is clean, hearing is sharp, eyesight just a little wonky, steps steady and has a razor sharp memory. Eager to learn about the life of the nonagenarian, his daily lifestyle and how he could inspire others, I ask him about his daily routine.

"My granddaughter has said about me — my *Nana* is a simple man leading a disciplined life. I get up at 3.30 in the morning and read our scriptures. I go to bed at 10 pm. Sir MV (M. Visvesvaraya, the Engineer-Statesman) has said — for a normal man five hours of sleep is enough, for a labourer seven hours, for lazy lot nine hours," said the Professor with a twinkle in his eyes.

He reads the *Holy Koran*, which has the Arabic script and the translation in English on the same pages. "I read the whole book in three days. There are 30 chapters in the book and every day I read 10 to 11 chapters. If you have devotion to God then you feel like getting up. I automatically get up very early. You might be shy to pray in the open at times, but when you start reading the *Koran,* there is no shyness. There is solace, tranquillity, satisfaction and peace," he said.

After reading *Koran,* he goes for a walk at 6.30 am and returns an hour later. Then he reads the newspaper for almost two hours, *Deccan Herald* in the morning and *Star of Mysore* in the evening.

Asked what motivates him to get up so early to go for long walks, he has a ready witty answer, quoting Sir MV again. "When somebody asked MV the reason for his longevity, he replied, "Death called me once, found me not at home, I had gone walking *(Yama bandidda, na maneli irlilla, avnu horthoda)"* and he bursts into laughter.

Ask him about his eyesight. "No, my right eye is gone. I go to Bengaluru to take an injection directly into the eye. Each injection costs Rs.25,000. I am doing it for the last five years. It takes three hours preparation for one injection. Then I cannot do anything for the next eight days. It is an ordeal. I cannot even touch a drop of water," he said.

***"Yaargu bedappa, ee tondre...* I have to do it every two months. But I do not have blood pressure or diabetes. You take things as they are. There are many people with one leg, one kidney, fading memory, Alzheimer's and dementia and so I feel I am better off," said Prof. Ali.**

A prolific writer, his 55th book was released recently. "I had written on the History of Karnataka in seven volumes and we brought out a single comprehensive volume," he said.

He writes everything in hand, literally putting pen on paper. "I am the Editor-in-Chief of the Urdu daily *'Salar.'* I have to write something every day. Next day it is consigned to the waste paper basket. Hence, whatever I write, in course of time they are all published in book form," he said.

"I write one article in two to three hours. I have written more than thousand of them both in Urdu and English," he said showing the manuscript neatly written in Urdu from left to right with not a single correction.

At two O'clock he has his lunch and rests till five. "I am a pure vegetarian. Very rarely I eat non-vegetarian food, may be during *Ramzan* and *Eid*. My cook Vishalakshi is a vegetarian. She was sent to me by my sister from Chikmagalur, after I lost my wife on January 19, 2009 and she is with us ever since," he said.

Prof. Ali does a lot of social service connected with five different institutions. He is the President of Muslim Hostel in Saraswathipuram since the last 40 years. He is a part of a Study Circle, which he started. He started the Muslim Education Society and is the President of Mount View chain of institutions in Chikmagalur.

The nonagenarian is very fond of two things — History and Education. A true Historian, he said, "The country that forgets the past has no future. The seeds of the future lie in the backyard of the past. History is not only knowing and understanding the past but also completing what began in the past, which people tend to forget."

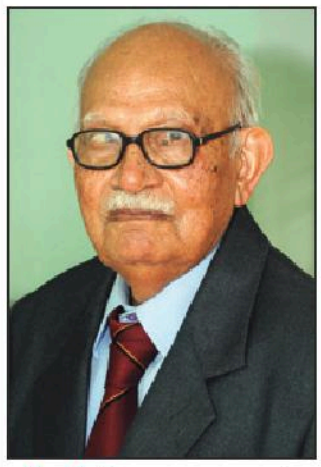
Education — No one is above the level of a teacher, not even a king or an emperor. The wealth of a nation is not in mineral resources, water resources, forest resources but in human resources, he said.

"The destiny of a nation is made in the classroom and the architect of that destiny is a teacher. But he must be a good teacher. I learnt all this from Zakir Hussain, the former President of India, on whom I have written four books," the Professor said.

"In India we have secularism but it is being questioned today. In the whole universe, everything is right in India except politics. I firmly believe, 'No country is like India, no State like Karnataka and no city like Mysuru'," said Prof. Sheik Ali.

The Professor has his dinner (either chapathi or rice) at 9.30 pm. He also eats banana, papaya or mosambi before retiring for the day at 10 pm.

"I want to die with my pen in hand, not in ICU and not one more injection is my last wish," he says wistfully, when asked how he likes to leave this world.



> "I want to die with my pen in hand, not in ICU and not one more injection is my last wish... as I am growing older my memory power is growing stronger..."

As I am about to leave, he picks up the book *'An Era of Enlightenment'* about the history of University of Mysore which he has penned and asks me to check as he quotes Chamaraja Wadiyar's speech which he (Wadiyar) made to the students in the 1880s, without a pause.

I open the page as he reads the passage, "Remember that you belong to a nation intensely religious, whose life from early morn to night is filled by firm belief in the Divine presence. Remember that you are the inheritors of the codes of purest morality and the system of highest philosophy and that these invaluable treasures are all locked up in the archives of the ancient library to yield their truth to the earnest student."

He looks up giving that characteristic look of his, with head turned, laughs heartily as he bids me good-bye. I ask him how he has this phenomenal memory and he replies, **"As I am growing older my memory power is growing stronger."**

It is a blessing that nonagenarians like Prof. Sheik Ali are still amidst us today.

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"Olive or twist?"

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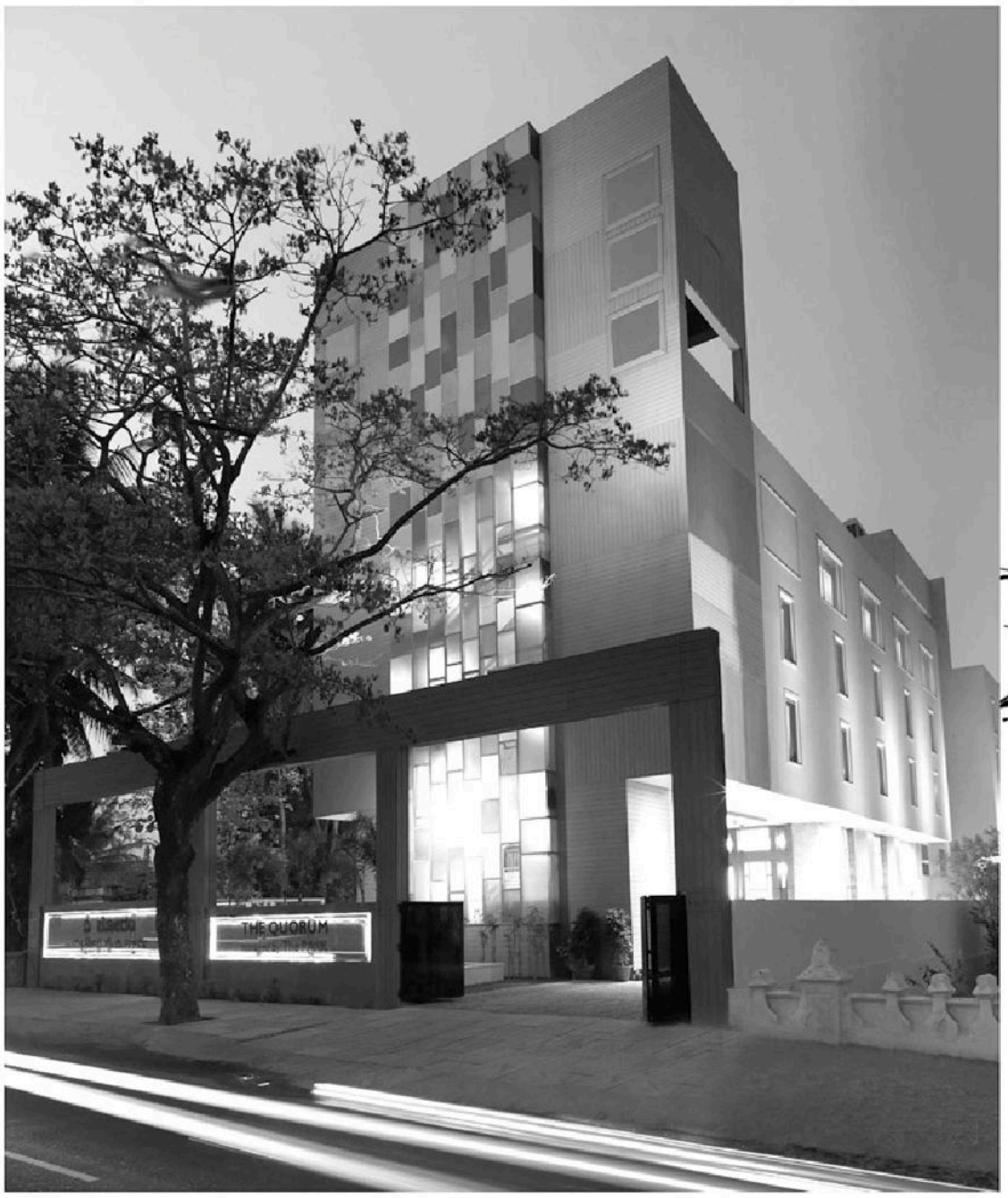

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Tête-à-Tête with K.B. Ganapathy, Editor-in-Chief, Star of Mysore

Agony and ecstasy of running a local evening english newspaper

"All my life I never suffered any complex or hang-ups while interacting with people"

Editors are unique who are rarely seen but only read. However, when one is not only an editor but also the founder-owner of a newspaper, then the equation changes. And to run a newspaper for 40 long years and create a unique space takes courage and above all, a certain kind of chutzpah. ***K.B. Ganapathy (KBG), Editor-in-Chief, Star of Mysore,*** *the only english evening newspaper in the city, seems to have all these qualities. When he was asked for this interview he said no. He was not convinced that he should appear in his own newspaper. Finally, he relented and* ***SOM Features Editor N. Niranjan Nikam*** *sat in a tête-à-tête with him at his home, aptly named 'Fourth Estate.' Excerpts...*

Senior journalist N. Niranjan Nikam in conversation with K.B. Ganapathy at 'Fourth Estate.'

By N. Niranjan Nikam

Star of Mysore (SOM): You have entered the 41st year of publishing this opinion-maker newspaper. What are the thoughts in your mind?

K.B. Ganapathy (KBG): First let me clarify. Opinion is always subjective. *Star of Mysore* cannot have opinion-making power as you assume. At best *SOM* has merely kindled thought among its readers. After 40 years in *SOM* and nearly 50 years as a journalist, I think I have chosen a right profession which is also my passion. I have always been in love with words and I started reading novels and other books during my younger days. That love affair with books continues and I am happy.

SOM: How did you venture into a field which is considered risky? When you started in 1978, did Mysuru have other evening newspapers?

KBG: More than 20 — all single sheets. I was in Bombay and Poona for nearly 14 years. Evening newspapers were there. But when I came to Mysuru, I realised that the papers here, compared to what I saw in Bombay, were pathetic. I found it more of a racket.

SOM: What were the initial years like? You also started the Kannada morninger, *Mysooru Mithra,* ***two years after you started*** *Star of Mysore.*

KBG: Any venture will have teething troubles. Since we already had a printing unit, starting a newspaper in tabloid size was not a big deal. As I was an English language journalist, I thought I should start an English newspaper. There were only two English newspapers, one was *Samachar* and the other *Mino News*. They were an apology for a newspaper as they were just one sheet tabloid — two pages. *Samachar* had better language, the other one was grammatically poor. Thus, there was space for a quality paper like *SOM*.

But for your question on Kannada newspaper, it was a bold step. Within two years of starting *SOM*, we were taking off vertically and it was encouraging. I thought being in Karnataka, being fairly proficient in Kannada, I should start a Kannada paper. I did not start it as a city newspaper but as a district-level newspaper. At that time, Mysuru district included Chamarajanagar and had a population of about 25 lakh. So I thought it was possible to get a good share of readership from the rural people who would get a Kannada newspaper at a throw-away price compared to the State-level papers. The paper clicked and it is now 38 years old.

SOM: The two columns you write, Abracadabra and Hocus-Pocus, are very popular. What is this magic all about?

KBG: There was no magic as such. People took a liking for *Abracadabra* simply because in a tradition-bound conservative society like Mysuru, suddenly the newspaper reader discovered that there was lot more to modesty and puritanical life than they found in the earlier newspapers. The language was very unorthodox, occasionally the four-letter word too was used. This column was even irreverent and iconoclastic. I wrote about man-woman relationship and about sex without inhibition, all inspired by Osho Rajneesh of my Poona days. He was my Philosopher-Guru. *Hocus-Pocus* is a brief comment on contemporary events and day-to-day news but *Abracadabra* has a different dimension and a flavour of its own. People here in Mysuru accepted these columns.

In fact a situation arose that shop-keepers who got the paper would look for this column and if they thought that it would not be proper for their daughters to read, they would not take the copy home *(laughs heartily)*.

I wrote about life in all its aspects and dimensions and people got addicted to *SOM*. In fact, the name *Abracadabra* itself is exotic, derived from an Arabic word meaning chanting some gibberish to hold the other person spellbound or mesmerised.

SOM: You have found a legion of admirers and friends. However, there are many who don't like you.

KBG: You see, neither a leopard can change its spots nor an Ethiopian his colour. I have been like this all my life ನಾವಿರೋದು ಹೀಗೆ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ *(he breaks into Kannada)*. I have dealt with people without any hang-ups or any complex. When I meet an important person, I do not feel inferior. Likewise, when I meet people who are poor, uneducated, I never feel superior to them. And since I do not hate anyone, I do not think anyone hates me. But I may dislike a person and they too dislike me.

SOM: People are amazed at your memory and the way you quote from books and celebrities.

KBG: I did my Diploma in Journalism from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Bombay. We had experienced professors, who were actually working journalists and editors. We were asked to maintain a scrap book and it is very important. I don't think these days anyone uses scrap book as we have Google. I would keep many scrap books, number them year-wise and preserve them for reference. It used to help. That is my memory.

In fact, Khushwant Singh, who edited *Illustrated Weekly of India,* always carried a small notebook. By a fine coincidence, he was carrying the same kind of small book that I was carrying when I met him at the Administrative Training Institute over a drink. R. Gundu Rao was the CM at that time and he always used to say that the Congress party was like *'Indira Gandhi Krupa Poshita Nataka Mandali.'* Singh asked me "What is the meaning of it?" I started to explain and he fished out this small note book from his pocket and started taking it down. So there you have a memory book.

The Editor of *The Statesman,* London, was telling us that he could write his best pieces only when he used his pen and paper and not when he dictated to somebody or when he typed it. He found his memory suddenly come alive as he wrote.

SOM: Newspaper industry is almost a 24x7 job. But you have never stopped having fun.

KBG: That is where the fun is, I never thought work as labour. My work gave me more pleasure than pain. Job is fun. Once you start loving what you do then what you do is fun. When an employee lets me down or writes a bad copy which I am unable to edit I miss the fun part of journalism.

SOM: What about the journey from a Jawa motorcycle to Benz car?

KBG: I wanted to get rid of Jawa motorcycle. I was using it in Poona for almost six years. I would always send a secret prayer, "Please help me God to get rid of the motorcycle and get me a car." My prayer was granted after two years of starting *SOM*. Then there was no looking back.

[Continued on page 30]

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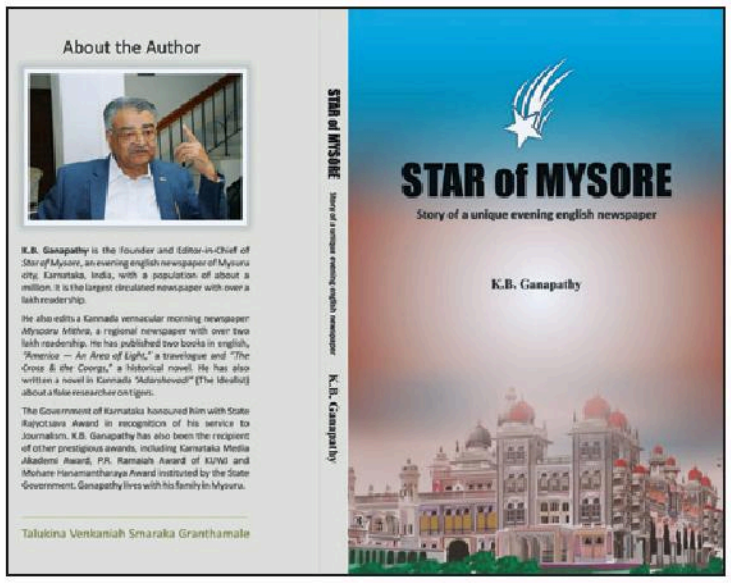
About the Author
K.B. Ganapathy is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Star of Mysore, an evening english newspaper of Mysuru city, Karnataka, India, with a population of about a million. It is the largest circulated newspaper with over a lakh readership.
He also edits a Kannada vernacular morning newspaper Mysooru Mithra, a regional newspaper with over two lakh readership. He has published two books in english, "America — An Area of Light," a travelogue and "The Cross & the Coorgs," a historical novel. He has also written a novel in Kannada "Adarshavadi" (The Idealist) about a fake researcher on tigers.
The Government of Karnataka honoured him with State Rajyotsava Award in recognition of his service to Journalism. K.B. Ganapathy has also been the recipient of other prestigious awards, including Karnataka Media Akademi Award, P.R. Ramaiah Award of KUWJ and Mohare Hanamantharaya Award instituted by the State Government. Ganapathy lives with his family in Mysuru.
Talukina Venkaniah Smaraka Granthamale
STAR of MYSORE
Story of a unique evening english newspaper
K.B. Ganapathy
STAR of MYSORE Story of a unique evening english newspaper K.B. Ganapathy

Cover page of KBG's book to be launched tomorrow (Feb. 17).

[Continued from page 28]

SOM: Many challengers have come to topple** SOM. **Many people say that you are plain lucky?

KBG: It is said luck comes when preparation meets opportunity. In my case there was preparation and also opportunity. In the case of others they were jealous. Some thought they could beat me with their money. They had the opportunity but no preparation or knowledge of newspaper business. You cannot be an angel investor or a venture capitalist who does not know ABCD of journalism and expect the newspaper to succeed. No way.

For small or medium size newspaper like ours, it has to be editor-owned. Here in Mysuru, people with lot of money thought they can hire journalists and succeed.

SOM: You have reached a stage in life where you have decided to withdraw from daily responsibilities, after your two sons joined you. In family-run businesses, this is the most difficult decision. Have you come to terms with it?

KBG: I am very lucky. Both my sons, Vikram and Mickey, are well-qualified and capable of running my enterprise and that has given me the confidence to pass on the baton to an equally good runner who can breast the tape. My son Vikram is a very good writer. In fact, his column *In Black & White* is read more widely than my column *Abracadabra* now. Many of these family-run businesses collapsed because the inheritors were not competent or did not like the line of business they inherited.

SOM: Not many evening papers are distributed to homes like a morning newspaper.** Star of Mysore **has this unique distinction. How did you manage to accomplish this feat?

KBG: My guess is that home distribution would have started in Mysuru when it was a very small city. Take for example 'Sadhvi.' It used to be home-delivered in the down-town area only. Those days there were only one or two extensions. However, the pattern of distribution continued. And for delivery boys it was an additional income. When I started *SOM,* the system of home delivery was already in place.

SOM: You express your views very strongly. You are not biased, whereas now-a-days we can see this bias more in television. What is your view about this trend?

KBG: It is a bad trend. Newspaper is a public platform and you should not be biased. I have written the first editorial *'A Star Is Born'* on 16.2.1978. There I have very clearly said that we will neither be partisan nor will we become slaves to any ideology.

SOM: In your company there are people who have stuck with you for many years. Any comment?

KBG: The answer is in the book I have written. The reason why they stuck with us is because they found the working atmosphere congenial and there is less interference from the management. Naturally, an employee who is contented with this kind of office atmosphere and satisfied with the modest salary for a small town like this, does not feel like looking for another job.

SOM: You have written a book on the occasion of the 40th anniversary titled** Star of Mysore — Story of a unique evening english newspaper. **Why did you choose the title eponymous with the name of the paper?

KBG: My first choice, in fact the only choice for the title of the book was 'Paper Tiger.' It was the title I held on to with considerable pride. One day, my son, Vikram, over a dinner mentioned that 'Paper Tiger' may not be the right title.

I asked why and he said there was already a book with the same title. Moreover, it means a tiger without any power or strength unlike a real tiger. So by giving that title I would be saying that *Star of Mysore* is not a powerful newspaper but only a weak, paper tiger. It was then I thought I should change the title.

SOM: How much did you enjoy penning this book and how candid have you been?

KBG: I did not really enjoy writing this book. It was a labour not of love but of compulsion; manifestation of a long suppressed desire to expose those who were my tormentors without naming them.

These are such dangerous times of highly sensitised society with individuals who turn violent even for a trivial or frivolous reason. As a result, I was not able to write this book with names of the people or detailing the events as they happened. I had to camouflage those tormentors and write in a euphemistic manner. Like nature, I have only half revealed the truth, an intelligent local reader will be able to read between the lines.

SOM: Apart from the lady behind you, what is it you attribute your success to?

KBG: My hard work. However, I must add this to your presumption. If there was no matching support for me from the home front, it would have been impossible for me to succeed, that too in a field which is very difficult to succeed even to a modest level.

The household must be run by the home-maker as an inspiration to her husband. Be it cooking what he likes, dining together at the table, bringing up children, gardening, keeping the house in ship-shape without bothering the husband while at work. This will help her husband to concentrate on his work. I am lucky in this. My wife Ralie stood by me through thick and thin like a rock.

SOM: Is your success a well-kept secret like the Coca-Cola?

KBG: There is no secret at all. Has *Coca-Cola* any secret? Ask George Fernandes, the hero of Emergency days and a Union Minister in the Janata Party Government. He got his own brand of *Coca-Cola* called *Double Seven (77)* saying "there is no secret in *Coca-Cola.* It is a formulation of Ahmedabad Sugar, Ganga Water and Coca-colour." Anyway, the reason for success is perseverance, never-say-die attitude. As the Founder of *CNN* Ted Turner said, "I tell my boys either follow or lead or get out of my way." Even when things are going wrong, you know it can be corrected by timely decision. I am not a tomorrow's man and a newspaper man cannot afford to be one.

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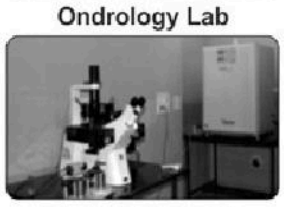
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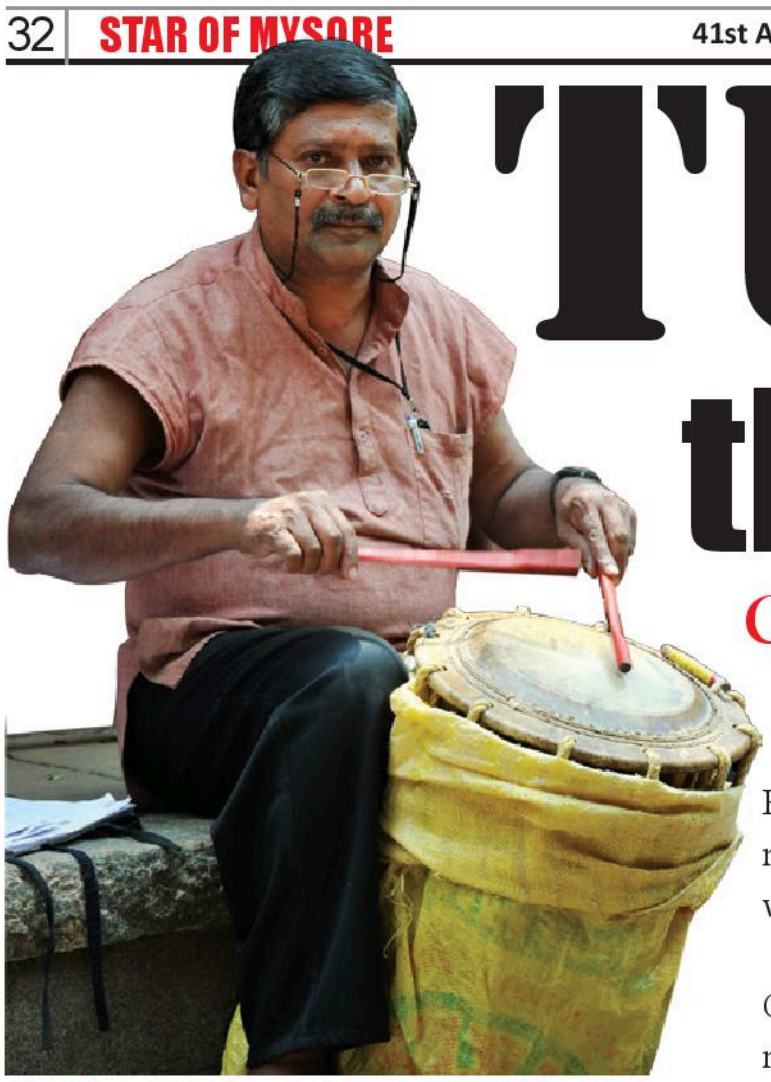

TUNING the tuneless...

Cheeni takes Karanth's legacy forward

Whatever Kannada theatre has achieved today is the result of the revolution brought about 50 years ago by *Padma Shri* B.V. Karanth. Say THEATRE and MUSIC, one amongst the foremost names that strikes one's mind is Babukodi Venkataramana Karanth, who with his innovative use of music made it big in modern Indian theatre.

Carrying Karanth's legacy forward is **Srinivas Bhat,** fondly called Cheeni Mama, who is associated with Rangayana since its inception as music teacher. Though retired from service officially, he still continues his service to the music field.

Star of Mysore had a chat with this talented artiste, who resides at Vivekanandanagar in city with his wife Suchetha and son Giridas Bhat. He spoke about his theatrical journey and the bonding he shared with the legend in flesh and blood. Excerpts...

> *"We were to stage 'Mookana Makkalu' of Masti Venkatesha Iyengar. The previous day before the show, Karanth said, 'Cheeni you manage the show. I have to go to Bengaluru' and left. I managed the show and Jayatheertha Joshi, the then Rangayana Deputy Director, said: 'You are the next Karanth'."*

By B.N. Ramya

Star of Mysore (SOM): When and how were you initiated into music?

Srinivas Bhat: My father was a musician and was well-known as Tabla Das Bhat. My mother Girija Bhat was also a singer. My father used to take tabla classes from 5 am to 8 am and harmonium classes from 8 am to 9 am at our house. I learnt the art of playing tabla observing my father. When I was around five, Shreesha Das Bhat, a Harikatha artiste, came home asking for my father to accompany him for a programme but as my father was out of station, he took me with him. That was the first time I played tabla in public at Mahalingeshwara Temple in Avanje, Udupi.

SOM: You had formed a couple of music bands and performed in Goa.

Srinivas Bhat: When I was in 10th standard, I was interested in orchestra and wanted to learn guitar but there was no one to teach me. So I started watching orchestras. Though I had no money to buy tickets, I used to do pranks like pricking the leg of Policeman at the entrance and rush inside when he bent his head to see who pricked him. My friend Ganesha was always there to do this prank and I used to stand near the stage and observe how guitar was played.

While studying at Government Junior College in Udupi, an orchestra had come to the town. They used various instruments which influenced me and I too wanted to form a music band. Initially, I used to make music for Yuvaka Mandalis and many groups. By the time I completed my PUC, *'Hemanth and His Orchestra'* introduced me in Goa as a guitarist. There were nearly 40 members in the orchestra and I was the lead guitarist. I also formed music bands like *Stoneage, Cheeni Melodies, MAGTOC* [Mohammed, Ashoka, Ganesha, Tagore, Oscar and Cheeni] before moving into theatre.

SOM: What took you to theatre world?

Srinivas Bhat: When I was around 26, 'Rathabeedhi Geleyaru' in Udupi had invited K.V. Akshara from NINASAM (Neelakanteshwara Natya Sangha) to perform in Udupi. It was Bertolt Brecht's play *'The Threepenny Opera'* and Akshara was in search of an orchestra. That is when someone mentioned my name and Akshara invited me to join him. He gave me a book and asked to compose music. The first song I composed music for was *'Eldiddarenante padri purana...'* and Akshara was happy. After the successful show in Udupi, Akshara invited me to Heggodu show. I initially rejected his request to go to NINASAM as I used to earn good money by giving floor shows at a local bar. However, as Akshara asked me to join him at least for a year, I agreed.

Srinivas Bhat with Guru B.V. Karanth.

SOM: NINASAM and Karanth — Share with us your memories attached to them.

Srinivas Bhat: At NINASAM, *'The Threepenny Opera'* was in the morning session and B.V. Karanth's *'Miss Sadharame'* was in the afternoon. Karanth used to compose music and ask Kittur's Basavalingaiah Hiremath to teach students. Hiremath did not know to write notations. I used to write them and teach others. Karanth was happy seeing me teach and that is how our bonding began.

SOM: You moved to Delhi after NINASAM.

Srinivas Bhat: When I was about to leave NINASAM, my sister who was in Delhi took me there and my brother-in-law put me in a garments factory. Without music, I had no life. Hence I started to visit National School of Drama (NSD) every day. There I met Bhagirathi Bai Kadam (now Rangayana Director), Ashish Vidyarthi (actor) and other artistes. My sister, who was concerned about me, helped me join Gymkhana Club as a guitarist but I didn't want to continue as I was not happy with the atmosphere there. We were supposed to wear shoes, coat and tie which I had to borrow from my brother-in-law and I was so uncomfortable. I like to be bare-foot when I work. I do *pranams* to Mother Earth before starting my work and wearing shoes was the first thing I disliked.

SOM: Tell us about your journey back to Karnataka, particularly Mysuru.

Srinivas Bhat: On Dec.12, 1988, when I was walking home from Gymkhana Club at midnight, a person asked 'Aren't you Cheeni?' and he was Prasanna of NINASAM. He said Karanth was searching for me and I should go and meet him. Then Karanth was working at Sardar Patel Vidyalaya on Lodhi Road in Delhi. The very next day, I took leave and went to Patel School but Karanth wasn't available. I was disappointed and went to NSD to spend my day. I was in search of Bhagirathi Bai. To my surprise, Karanth was right in front of me inside a classroom. On seeing me, he came running and said, "I'll come back in five minutes, I am taking viva." When he was back, he chided me saying: "I'm forming Ranga Ghataka in Karnataka. Why did you come to Delhi?" He was the one who brought me back to Mysuru. Among the 350 people interviewed, I was selected for Ranga Ghataka (now Rangayana).

SOM: Share with us your compositions for theatre and some productions you have worked for.

Srinivas Bhat: When Jayatheertha Joshi was the Deputy Director of Rangayana, he did Girish Karnad's play *'Taledanda.'* Earlier, Karanth had scored music and had played it elsewhere. As Karanth wasn't well, I was asked to take over. So I heard all cassettes, noted down the notations. Karanth's music had *alapa* and I wrote notation for the first time for a play. Joshi was happy and he took my notations and even today, my notations are used for this play which has given over 150 shows so far. Next was Gopala Krishna Adiga's *'Bhoomigeetha,'* for which I used only guitar music. After Karanth, I scored music to almost all the plays of Rangayana. Apart from that, for amateurs, I gave music to over 300 plays including those of Niranthara Foundation, GPIER and Amara Kala Sangha. I have composed music for about 700 songs till date.

[Continued on page 33]

Cheeni takes Karanth's legacy forward

[Continued from page 32]

SOM: Your bonding with Karanth?

Srinivas Bhat: I don't hesitate to say I was *'Adige Bhatta.'* I used to cook Udupi food and Karanth liked it. I used to stay in G7 (Rangayana building) and Karanth stayed at A4. What embarrassed me was Karanth, being a national figure, coming to me with a bowl and asking, *'Thambuli unta... Chatni unta...'* (coastal food). I still remember the time when Prema Karanth came to Rangayana and told me: "You should take care of Karanth. You should eat and make him eat."

I used to prepare food at 6 am and get ready for classes. Once I was late for Yoganarasimhan's *Ranga Sangeetha* class by 10 minutes. Karanth scolded me in front of everybody for being late. I felt insulted.

Around 2.30 pm, Karanth came and asked me why I didn't go to his house. I said I felt ashamed that he scolded me in front of everyone. Later, I heard Karanth saying to Basavalingaiah, who was the Director then, "Shouldn't a father scold his son?" Hearing that, all my sadness vanished. Even in the book *'Illiralare Allige Hogalaare' (Here, I Cannot Stay; There, I Cannot Go — autobiography of B.V. Karanth as told to Vaidehi),* Karanth has mentioned Mysuru's Cheenam Bhatru is among his favourite three 'Bhats.' Whatever I eat, I live is because of Karanth.

SOM: According to you, what was unique in Karanth's music?

Srinivas Bhat: Theatre need not be in its classical form. Karanth wanted orchestra people for theatre. He always said, "Theatre music is not *'Sidda Prayoga'* (ready experiment) but *'Anvayika Sangeetha'* (applied music)."

SOM: What makes good musical instruments for theatre?

Srinivas Bhat: There are four types of instruments — Sushira (wind instruments like flute, saxophone and clarinet), Thantri (string instruments like veena, guitar and violin), Gana (instruments which cannot be tuned) and Avanada (instruments which can be tuned). Karanth always liked using Gana Vadya.

[Continued on page 35]

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Down The Memory Lane

By K. Vijaya Kumar
Former Jt. Director of Information & Publicity

Stray Thoughts on Gender Equality

'Men-only' UN meeting on the subject

The 266th and current Pope of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis recently asked men "to be less macho (aggressively masculine) and listen more to women."

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson at a men-only UN Meeting in 2014 had said: "We want to bring men and boys to the table on gender equality in a positive way." [Iceland ranked top in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index for the ninth year in a row]

HeForShe
UN Women Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality

"We need boys and men working with us. *HeForShe* is a global solidarity movement to end gender inequality by 2030. The goal is to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change in the effort to achieve equality. When women are empowered, the whole of humanity benefits."
—Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

I remembered the above mentioned comments and initiatives that jogged my memory to write on the topic of gender issues, which continues to be debated across the world.

MALE GENDER WORKSHOP

As I was actively involved in Gender Training-Sensitising programmes at the Administrative Training Institute (ATI) during 1990-95, my thoughts went back nearly 25 years ago when a unique 'Male Gender Workshop' was organised by Bengaluru-based NGO 'Sakti' headed by one Jacintha inviting me to take part in it.

In fact, she was our NGO associate in co-ordinating gender courses with me in our institute. Her extensive work on the subject included bringing out Gender Trainers' Manual in Kannada under my guidance which was released by the then Union Minister Margaret Alva.

Interestingly, the three-day workshop was held at one of the private resorts in Bandipur National Park in March 1994. It created interest in me to attend the workshop where Jacintha was the Course In-charge.

It was Dr. R.L. Kapur (late), internationally well-known Psychiatrist, who was instrumental in bringing out the hidden truth from the minds of the participants about their perception towards women.

He was the Professor Emeritus of National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru and also the Director of All India Institute of Speech & Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru, who passed away in November 2006. (He happened to be the son-in-law of famous Kannada writer Shivaram Karanth, marrying his daughter Malavika).

My friend Prof. Umapathy, Psychology Faculty of Karnataka Police Academy (KPA) in Mysuru, helped Dr. Kapur with his interesting Exercise-Questionnaire on Gender relation that made the participants to come out of their existing attitudes and outlook towards women.

Jacintha had intelligently included a few women for the workshop as silent observers. But their silence would break out often after sessions, coming to know the reality about gender stereotypes that is still existing particularly among the well-educated participants.

Seated second from right: K. Vijaya Kumar; standing behind him in glasses is Jacintha; Seated centre (in specs) is Dr. R.L. Kapur; extreme left: Prof. Umapathy.

They would tease looking at us commenting like 'Oh! You gentlemen in the robe of Gender Equality showed your real mind about us.' Still many liked asking: "How long you require to come out of your gender-obsessed shell? Whether the change in you will take place at all?" We had no satisfying answers to them!

Though the outcome of this workshop was not of any significance, Jacintha made an attempt to know the mindset of men towards women. And still there is need for the involvement of men through many initiatives at the global level as mentioned in the beginning of this article quoting eminent personalities.

FEMINISM IS A GIFT TO MEN

It was further strengthened by a recent interview I read in *The Hindu* with a Journalism Professor at University of Texas, Prof. Robert Jensen, who was in Bengaluru for a programme. He says feminism is a gift to men. It helps us to transcend the limits of masculinity, which is not only dangerous to women but is also limited to men.

Before I conclude, I recall the last Gender course conducted by me before retirement in ATI at the end of 1994. The present Chief Secretary K. Ratna Prabha (who was then I think DC of Bidar), Jija Hari Singh, who retired as IGP (then DIG of Police in Mysuru), a DC rank Officer of Income Tax Department, a Post Master General and our own Principals of District Training Institutes took part in the course.

I also recall senior lady IAS Officers like Malathi Das, Meera Saxena and many more besides their men colleagues showing interest in taking part in Gender courses and how they would come out with many practical solutions for the removal of gender inequality in the society. But the efforts go on..■

e-mail: kumarkv59@gmail.com

Sitting second from left: K. Ratna Prabha (present Chief Secretary); fourth: K. Vijaya Kumar, IPS Officer Jija Hari Singh, Income Tax DC and Post Master General.

Cheeni

[Continued from page 33]

I feel 'dead instruments' or 'non-instruments (Avadyas)' are important for theatre. Kolu, Kattige and Lolaga, all make good non-instruments.

Lotte / Lolaga - made of bamboo - which is tied around cow's neck gives out different sound from one cow to another. That is how villagers recognised their cows earlier. Karata, Gaggara (tied to horn of cattle), all these inspired Karanth to create music. With Karata, you can make music of a horse walking or wind blowing. Now in theatre, everything has been modernised and no one uses such instruments. But till my last breath, I will follow Karanth.

SOM: You were fascinated by guitar and ended up with Avadyas. How?

Srinivas Bhat: My inclination towards western music reduced gradually as I got associated with Karanth. Karanth didn't like using organs. So probably, being with him, I too was influenced. I believe in my hand power and not electronic instruments. I like searching for sound. Hands never fail but electronics is what fails. Harmonium listens to us. Electronic instruments may breakdown if there is a power cut.

SOM: Srinivas to Cheeni Mama?

Srinivas Bhat: When C. Basavalingaiah became Rangayana Director, he started conducting *Chinnara Mela* annually and I was there teaching music. Mime Ramesh was the one to start it though. From then on, kids started addressing me as Cheeni Mama. In 15 years, I have taught about 12,000 children. Once, for *'Mahabharata,'* a total of 1,000 children were taught in one particular year. This association with kids made me well-known as Cheeni Mama.

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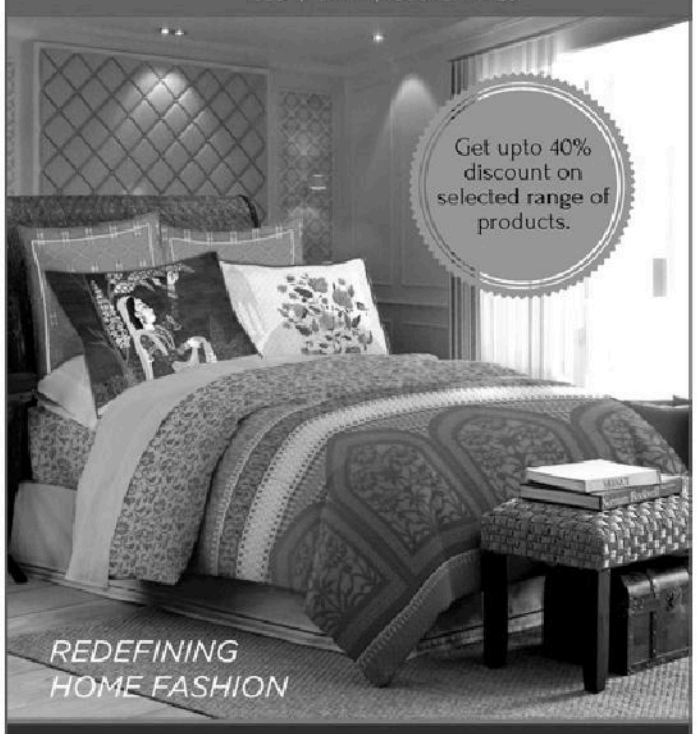

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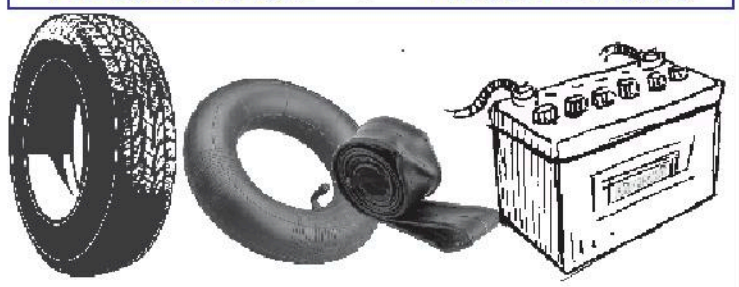

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The Royal Mysore Tiger

FRIENDLY BOUT: ***The then Minister Revu Naik Belamagi*** *(left)*, ***who used to be a professional wrestler, seen in action with Balaji to mark the inauguration of Dasara Kusti at D. Devaraja Urs Multipurpose Stadium in Mysuru during October 2010.***

[Continued from page 24]

With age advancing, several thorns were thrown on Tiger Balaji's way. He stopped competitive *Kusti* in 2002 as none of them were ready to fight with him and he was against match-fixing that had become common during that time. He urged the wrestlers to fight honestly and do justice to the audience and the game. With the modern *Garadis* spoilt by politics and with every amateur wrestler with a couple of wins getting the title of *Ustads* and becoming teachers, Tiger Balaji feels that the real spirit of *Kusti* is lost.

He adds that day-by-day there is a reduction in the number of Pehlwans in Mysuru as during tournaments many Associations rope in wrestlers from other States and thus there is no scope for the city's very own wrestlers. Since 2012, he has been officiating as a Referee during the wrestling competition at the Mysore Palace during Dasara and other tournaments. His sons Balram Jetti and Vishnuram Jetti, who are also Pehlwans, haven't received a satisfactory job in spite of sending in several applications. With no funds from the government, Tiger Balaji currently meets his family's expenses by driving an autorickshaw and selling milk.

On being asked about the cultural influence and the dominance of gyms and fitness centres in city, he says, "The modern generation has got the entire concept of body-building and fitness absolutely wrong. The gym centre gives dumb-bells in the hands of members right from day one and they just repeat it on and on. The importance of nutrition is completely ignored over there. Even my son once came to me and said that he will stop eating rice as it leads to obesity. I was shocked as during my days I ate everything and even rice and still sported a 6-pack and a great physique."

His training programme in those days started at about 3.30 am. He would break 5 to 6 eggs and drink them directly and apply oil all over his body. He would do around 6,000 push-ups and about 2,000 to 3,000 push-ups without break. Others would turn up at about 5.30 am, and by then, Tiger Balaji would have completed 75% of his training.

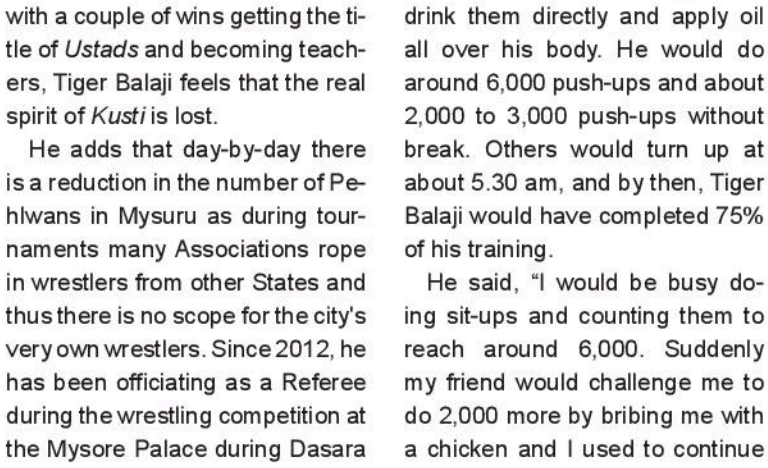
He said, "I would be busy doing sit-ups and counting them to reach around 6,000. Suddenly my friend would challenge me to do 2,000 more by bribing me with a chicken and I used to continue and win that chicken."

His diet included fruits, vegetables, mutton, badam and dry fruits, Rabdi (a mixture wherein one kg of butter is boiled into ghee and mixed with one litre of hot milk) along with regular food. His daily expenses during the 1980s was about Rs.550 per day. His constant support has been former MUDA Chairman P. Govindaraju, who has been taking care of him since 30 years.

Tiger Balaji was an aggressive wrestler and gave everything in store for the welfare of the game in a true sportsmanship spirit.

He also performs *Amba Thai Puja*, and according to him, only if one worships this Goddess, one will be called a Pehlwan. His message to the youngsters is that he was open to train and groom them, if they are dedicated. Then he will dedicate his time and train them irrespective of their background.

He intends to open a *Garadi Mane* at his residence in Sunnadakeri, K.R. Mohalla, in the near future. Patronised by erstwhile Mysore rulers, wrestling needs to find its roots back to carry on the game in the right direction with support from the authorities to find exposure beyond Dasara.■



Balaji with his wife Pushpa and sons Balram and Vishnuram in front of his dilapidated house at Sunnadakeri.

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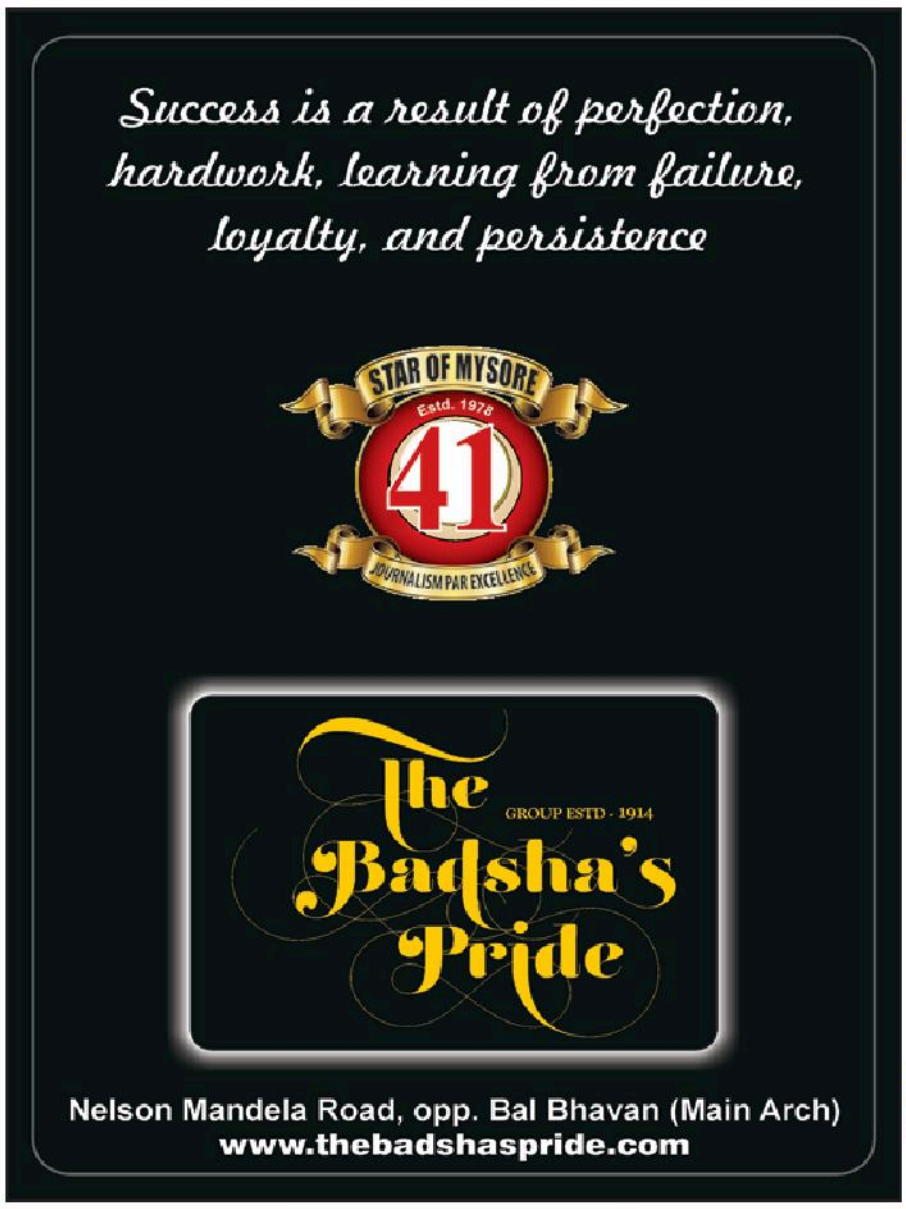
Overall Champions in Economics Fest

The prize-winners are seen with Prof. M.N. Venkatalakshmi, Head, Department of Economics, Mahajana First Grade College, Dr. S. Venkataramu, Principal, Dr. S.R. Ramesh, CEO & Academic Advisor, P.K. Keshavamurthy, chief guest and Chaluvegowda, Faculty.

Mysuru, Feb.16 - The students of SBRR Mahajana First Grade College, Mysuru, studying B.A. (JEE) Course, have emerged overall champions at 'ECOVISTA-18,' a State-level Economics Fest organised by the Department of Economics, Cauvery College, Gonikoppal, recently.

Teams from 22 Colleges from across Karnataka participated in the event. The following are the prize-winning students of Mahajana College: Sindhu and Ravishankar - First place in Quiz; Priyanka and Kruthika Lobo - First place in 'Model Making India by 2030'; Nisarga Chandrashekar and Rigzin - First place in 'Treasure Hunt'; Apoorva, Pradeep, Akhilesh and Virochan Raje Urs - Second place in 'Mad Ads.'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'Rotary Ivory Voice of Mysuru'

Mysuru, Feb. 16 - The grand finale of *"Rotary Ivory Voice of Mysuru"* was held recently at the Platinum Jubilee Auditorium in city. Six finalists each from school and college categories bagged the coveted awards.

The title in the schools category was won by B.R. Shreekar from DAV Public School. First and second runners up were Amulya Bhat of Amrita Vidyalaya and T.M. Vaishnavi of JSS Public School.

In the college category, the title was won by Sharadi Patil from Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University. First and second runners up were Hamsini S. Kumar of SDM College and M. Amulya from Mysore School of Architecture.

Deputy Commissioner D. Randeep was the chief guest. Avadhoota Simha Sri Vidyahamsa Bharati Maharaj of Mahakali Chakreshwari Peeta, Pandavapura, was the guest of honour. Judges for the event were eminent playback singers Ajay Warriar, Shashank Sheshagiri and Shubha Raghavendra.

Rotary Ivory City President B.G. Nagaraj and Assistant Governor Ravindra Bhat were present.

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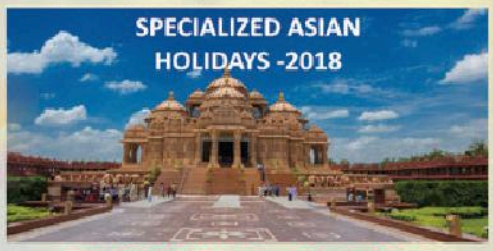

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NOW DOGS GET SPA TREATMENT TOO...

By Arathi Menon

A pleasure dip for pets at Woof Wagon pool.

Apple lives the life of a socialite. Her closet is stocked with the latest of grooming devices, perfumes and shampoos. She visits a parlour every two weeks for some oil massage and grooming, meets her buddies at the monthly meet of her social club at a park not far from her home and if the mood strikes, goes for a swim at a swimming pool nearby. Like every socialite, Apple too has an enviable lifestyle. Only, Apple is a pet dog in Mysuru.

If you parent a dog and are looking for a rented accommodation in Mysuru, there's a good chance that you're still looking for one. While most Mysureans are not open to the idea of keeping a dog inside the house, a growing number of animal-lovers in the city are trying hard to break stereotypes about pets and changing the game to the benefit of the animals. Result? Various parlours, recreational centres, social gatherings and top-notch boarding facilities are mushrooming in the city.

Way back in 2011, when people were still considering dogs and cats as "just dogs and cats," **Chitkala Arun** opened a grooming centre and fancy store for pets in Gokulam. Her husband, **Dr. C.S. Arun,** a veterinarian, started a pet clinic in 2003. A professional pet groomer herself, Chitkala's grooming centre started functioning in a room attached to the clinic. Though it was a novel concept then, Chitkala says she saw a lot of requirement in starting a facility like this. "There were many elderly people in the city who were finding it difficult to give a bath or take care of their dogs," she says. Between herself and two other staff, she grooms about five dogs on an average every day.

Things have certainly changed from the time she started the grooming centre and Chitkala vouches for it. "From big, guard dogs or retrievers, more people are opting for toy breeds making grooming even more important," she says.

It's also interesting to note that Mysureans have started giving more importance to their pets. Taking them out to a resort or a wash and haircut is considered a treat for their furry friends and they do it often, mostly on special occasions like birthdays.

Pet boarding and social gatherings

Keeping up with these changing trends are animal-lovers who want to break the stereotypes about pet care and give the best facilities possible for the pets. **The Woof Wagon (TWW)** is a real game-changer when it comes to pet care in Mysuru.

Starting with a small vet clinic and grooming salon in Dattagalli in 2016, TWW has grown to include a resort exclusively for dogs in Kergalli from April 2017. That's not all. TWW also has taken an initiative to create a unified Mysuru pet community.

"We curate regular events under the title of Mysuru Pet Social, which happens once a month on Sundays at Cheluvamba Park and Chewsticks and Chapathis, an event for families, which happens regularly at the resort," says **Dr. Suranjana Ganguly,** a veterinarian who co-founded TWW with her husband and veterinarian **Dr. Shantanu Kalambi** and **Seemanthini Channamallikarjuna,** a dog lover. In the future, they are also planning to set up a pet-friendly cafe, an organic vegetable garden and a veterinary outreach programme in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve and its surrounding villages along with Mariamma Charitable Trust.

Facilities like TWW are a big draw for pet-lovers in the city. According to Suranjana, they get a minimum of four boarders daily with the numbers going up to eight or nine on weekends. "It is often full during holidays," she adds.

Thirty-two-year-old Raghavendra Singh, who has a golden retriever by name Atom, visits TWW often to avail various services from grooming to vet consultation and lodging. Raghavendra says, "They have been the best thing that has happened to Mysuru in terms of pet-related services. They have well-trained staff, good infrastructure and most of all, amazing people with beautiful heart who look after your pets and make them feel loved. Every time I go there, I feel confident and assured that my boy is in safe hands and will have a lovely time with them. And one more thing, my boy Atom loves them so much that whenever we go there and come back, he actually misses them a lot."

[Continued on page 44]

It's shower time for a canine at Arun's Pet Clinic.

Spacious and well-ventilated kennels at The Woof Wagon.

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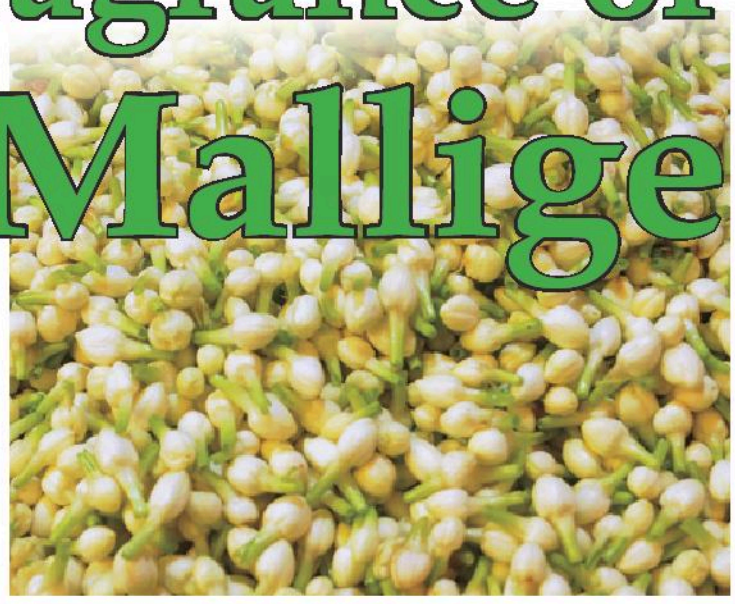
Disappearing Fragrance of Mysooru Mallige



By M.B. Pavan Murthy

William Shakespeare's axiom "A rose by any other name may smell just as sweet" may not apply to the famed '*Mysooru Mallige.*' This variety of jasmine not only has unmatched fragrance but also an inextricable link with the royal city.

The bond between *Mysooru Mallige* and Mysuru has grown strong over the years and the name of the flower and the name of the city are mentioned with the same intensity as one mentions the name of '*Mysore Pak*' or '*Mysore Masala Dosa.*' The book '*Mysooru Mallige*' by late poet K.S. Narasimhaswamy named after this flower is the best remembered of all poetry collections in Kannada.

But of late, people of Mysuru, who were earlier taking pride at the very mention of *Mysooru Mallige,* are robbed of a chance even to see them. Reason: Rapid decline in production and the arrival of different varieties (of course, not with the same fragrance) from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. These varieties are ruling the market now and the original *Mysooru Mallige* has taken a backseat.

Patronised by the Wadiyars of Mysuru, the *Mysoore Mallige* gets its name since it is grown mostly around Mysuru and partly in Srirangapatna. The uniqueness of this jasmine variety is its lingering fragrance. The flowers are used for garlands, especially at weddings and other auspicious occasions. Among the places where *Mysooru Mallige* was grown are Veeranagere, Ganesh Nagar and K.R. Mill area.

Blame it on the rapid urbanisation of Mysuru city since early 2000, the fields on the outskirts of the city where jasmine was once grown predominantly, have been converted into residential layouts. And because of the slump in jasmine cultivation, there has been a demand-supply gap, causing a sharp rise in its prices, especially during festivals and auspicious occasions.

Years back, this variety was grown in abundance in all those areas in Mysuru that come under 'Horticultural Zone' that extended up to 250 acres. So much so that the flower was the only crop in areas like Ganesh Nagar and K.R. Mill area and hundreds of families depended on the income generated by flower cultivation and marketing.

JASMINE VARIETIES: ***Tamil Nadu variety of Mallige has long stalk while Mysooru Mallige has short stalks.***

N. Manjunath, a flower merchant at Devaraja Market, gets emotional when he speaks about *Mysooru Mallige*. "People were attracted to our outlet as they used to get the fragrance at the very entrance of the market. Such was the smell and we made good business selling them. Now-a-days, during jasmine season, only 20 to 30 kgs of *Mysooru Mallige* come to our outlet per day while we get 1,000 to 1,500 kgs of the jasmine variety from Tamil Nadu," he says.

"You cannot compare *Mysooru Mallige* with Tamil Nadu jasmine. While our *Mysooru Mallige* has rich fragrance, the TN flower variety does not have any smell. As there is a severe shortage of *Mysooru Mallige*, we are forced to sell other varieties. Even if *Mysooru Mallige* comes to our market, it is very expensive and most of the people do not buy them due to the cost factor," he regrets.

Added to the decline in production, factors like lack of rain and increasing cold have contributed to the steady decline in *Mysooru Mallige* yield and supply.

Manjunath's family has been into flower business since decades. He and his brother N. Srinivas run the business now at *Sri Gayathri Flower Stall*. Their grandfather Mariyappa and father Narayanappa too were running the store at Devaraja Market. "They used to trade only *Mysooru Mallige* as tonnes of the flower would flood the market every day."

Both these brothers have been supplying flowers to decorate Golden Howdah during Dasara celebrations since 18 years. "Sadly, most of the areas that grew *Mysooru Mallige* have been converted into house sites and now there are only a handful of growers," Manjunath adds on a remorseful note.

'Jasmine Ladies' of Veeranagere

Nobody likes individual jasmine flowers unless it's for puja rituals. But it is a woman's desire to wear jasmine when they are stringed as it adds richness and beauty to their long and shiny manes, especially when in traditional attires.

There is a set of dedicated women at Veeranagere who dexterously string jasmine and so perfect are they in their occupation that they can continuously string jasmines without even looking at their hands. For many of them, making jasmine strings is a profession and they efficiently supplement their family income.

Most of these women do this job daily after their husbands and children leave homes. They assemble at one particular place like streets, empty spaces in front of shops, vacant building porticos or temple complexes. Their activity goes on from morning till evening and they get flowers from merchants at Devaraja Market.

But their lives are not a bed of jasmine. They need to struggle all day and be quick in stringing the flowers to make a maximum number of strings.

Mangalagowri, a resident of Veeranagere, has been into this job since 30 years. "My husband Nanjundanayaka assists me and it is a family profession. We also sell flowers by the side of Ashoka Road at Veeranagere. Mostly I make garlands and sell them to Devaraja Market. It is not an easy job. You need concentration and you must take care of your fingers. Any small wound and the whole job goes for a toss," she says.

The tradition of stringing flowers at Veeranagere started during the time of Maharajas as the area was full of *Mysooru Mallige* plantations. "Now there are cotton threads. Those days, strings were made using the fibre-like material obtained from banana stem, says Nanjundanayaka.

Another resident of this place, Gayathri has been into this business since years. "An experienced hand can string up to 4-kg of jasmine from 10 am to 11 pm. Stringing a kg of jasmine and other flowers can fetch about Rs.30 while a kg of Kanakambara variety fetches Rs.60," she says.— **PM&BCT**

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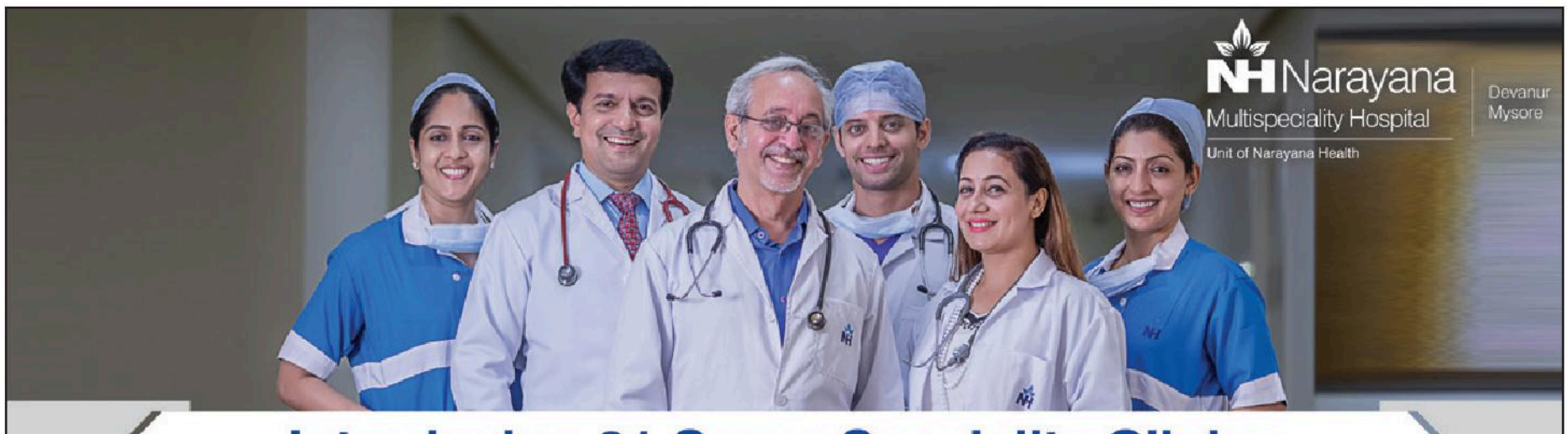

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Pampering Pooch

NOW DOGS GET SPA TREATMENT TOO...

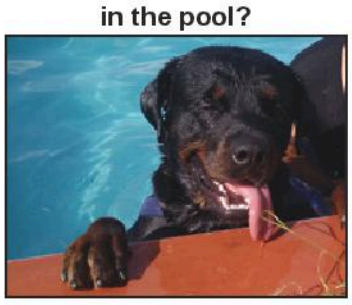
Who let the dogs out...!

These doggies at The Woof Wagon could be the envy of any socialite.

[Continued from page 40]

Situated on a one-acre property, the kennels at TWW are spacious, well-ventilated and leash-free. They have 14 large rooms with an indoor and outdoor area, plus a very large open common play area. "We don't force our animals to socialise and each one gets their own space that is customised as best as possible to their needs," she says. That's quite a treat for dogs!

How about a dip in the pool?



Every dog loves a good swim. If you are wondering where to take your fur baby for a pleasure dip, **Bow Bow Pet Resort** on Udbur-Sinduvalli Road has the perfect solution. They have a large swimming pool located in 14 guntas of land for recreation.

Other than the pool, the resort provides boarding facility as well. Forty-two-year-old **Umesh Vijayaraman,** who founded the resort says, "I started the facility because I found the kennels to be bad, infested places where the dogs were not taken care of well. I never used to leave my dogs there and would travel with them wherever I went. It's not possible for everyone. Since I had this land, I decided to start a facility like this." Umesh says the pet resort is a good place to hold birthday parties and other events for the pets.

Adoption is another area that organisations like Bow Bow and TWW focus on. They give advices on adoption and always have some dogs for adoption.

Plenty of hurdles to cross

While it is a beautiful thing to have spaces for your pets to enjoy in a city, the people behind these facilities do face a lot of challenges to make these ideas work. While Chitkala says handling dogs that come for grooming is quite a task and need able hands to manage it, it is breaking stereotypes about pets, pet care and vets that are daunting to TWW. "Most dogs do not behave the same way they behave at home. In a new surrounding, they tend to be a bit hostile. You need a lot of patience to groom them," Chitkala says.

What does the future look like to them? Suranjana says, "We hope to educate people about the benefits of pets, both as companion animals and social beings and encourage a culture of outdoor fun with pets and family. We want Mysureans to have a space that combines three of the best stress-busters — dogs, countryside and good hospitality." We hope they succeed in that.

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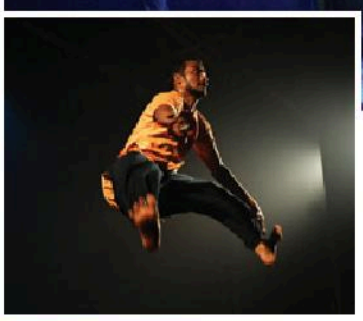

Bharatiya Ranga Shikshana students, who underwent training at Kerala, giving a demo on Kalaripayattu at Bhoomigeeta in Rangayana premises in city on Wednesday.

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Living off a Sharp Edge

Mehmood Pasha at work.

By S. Kenneth Shishir

Circa 1985: A housewife desperately waits in front of her house for a knife sharpener who carries the cycle-wheel-powered machine that has a round and rotating stone slab. She is getting impatient as she has to finish her cooking and her iron knife is not sharp enough to cut vegetables and meat.

Circa 2018: A man who sharpens iron knives with his machine on his shoulders searches for customers. He goes door-to-door looking for potential customers and the reply he gets make him worried. Nobody uses iron knives now-a-days as all have switched over to sparkling and stainless steel knives.

Trades that once flourished like street typists, snake charmers, plastic bucket repairers, honey collectors, kalaiwalas and grinding stone polishers have either vanished or seeing their last days.

Prominent among trades that are dying is the knife sharpening trade. About 20 years ago, one could often see these knife sharpeners, sharpening knives and scissors, for everyone, from the household women to butchers and fruit vendors. He does it all, with his strange, wooden machine that he peddles with his foot.

The round stone slab that is mounted on top of the machine rotates and is powered by a wheel of a cycle fixed to a wooden pedal. The moment he pushes the pedals with his legs, the wheels of the cycle rotates so does the round stone slab. He sharpens knives by touching the edges of the stone slab with the knife. His job is simple and works on the principles of friction.

Now-a-days in Mysuru it is very rare that we see such knife sharpeners. Most of the chakuwallahs or knife sharpeners have either found other occupations or have retired and the trade is now on the verge of extinction with only a handful of them left in city. Moreover, knife sharpeners are dissuading their children from joining the trade due to lack of business.

Says 65-year-old **Mehmood Pasha,** a knife sharpener and a resident of Ghousianagar in Mysuru: "My joints hurt from the pedalling and my shoulders pain as I carry the heavy equipment to earn a living. I have no other option as I have to feed my family."

He recalls that about 12 to 15 years ago, people used to wait for him to get their iron knives sharpened but now, he has to depend only on tailors and hair cutting saloons as it is only they who get their scissors sharpened. He says with a wry smile: "Stainless steel has snatched away my livelihood."

Stating that he earns Rs.200 to Rs.350 a day now, Pasha said: "I cannot increase the charges of knife sharpening now and then. There will be no customer in that case." He said that he travels to Gonikoppal and Kushalnagar in Kodagu, Sullia, Puttur, Udupi, Mangaluru and other coastal places. When asked why he has to travel to coastal areas to earn money when he can do the same job in the surrounding places of Mysuru, Pasha explains that as large scale fishing happens in coastal places, fishermen there use iron knives which needs to be sharpened regularly.

Pasha, who is in this profession for the last 45 years, says that knife sharpening trade is no longer a profitable business because of the entry of stainless steel blades in market.

When told that he could take loans through the Minority Welfare Department and establish his own motorised sharpening unit in city, Pasha says: "Though the Minority Department sanctions the loan, it is the Banks which has to give the loan and they ask for surety. I being a poor person cannot give any surety. We are destined to remain the same."

In a world where people are shifting jobs, running after 'perfect' careers, creative fields, tonnes of money and other pleasures, this man finds everything in the simple task of giving the right edge to cutting instruments.

"I am poor but I am satisfied and happy with whatever Allah has given me," says Pasha as he takes leave to find new customers. It is an undying motivation to go on doing something so ordinary with extraordinary and rare happiness.

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City to get new water tanks

Picture shows the damaged roof of the existing water tank at Vijayanagar Second Stage.

(Continued from page 5)

"The total cost of the works is Rs.22.27 crore and 40 percent of the works have already been completed. Fifty percent of the funds have been released by the Centre under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme and 20 percent will be contributed by the State Government and the remaining 30 percent will be borne by the MCC," Prasanna Murthy said.

Construction works have been handed over to Hyderabad-based DRS Infratech Ltd. The project is jointly executed by MCC, Directorate of Municipal Administration and KUWS&DB.

Executive Engineer Anand and Assistant Executive Engineer Vinay of Vani Vilas Water Works (VVWW) told *SOM* that the crucial stages of the works like screed layer work, raft concrete work, steel fabrication for side wall, column and side wall reinforcement, vertical side wall concrete work and de-shuttering of vertical side wall concrete have been completed.

The existing water tank at Vijayanagar that has a capacity of four Million Gallons will be repaired where the existing floor conditions will be replaced by new columns. Floor slab reinforcement works are being undertaken along with new columns and shuttering work. A separate concrete gutter wall is being laid and 'galvalumne sheet' roofing is being done to cover the structure.

Please join us tomorrow...

Dear Readers,

Your favourite evening english daily *Star of Mysore* is completing 40 years of service on Feb.16 and entering its 41st year of publication. Our dedication to serve you and your appreciation of our efforts has kept us going all these years. Thanks to you, we have been the leading newspaper connecting readers with their leaders; connecting advertisers with their customers; and more importantly, connecting Mysuru with Mysureans.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, we invite all our readers, subscribers, advertisers, patrons, delivery boys, agents and well-wishers to join us at the Platinum Jubilee Auditorium in J.K. Grounds on Feb. 17 evening at 4.30 for a special lecture by the renowned Mythologist and Author Devdutt Pattanaik.

On this occasion, a book about the story of *Star of Mysore* penned by the Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy will also be released. Union Minister H.N. Ananth Kumar will deliver the presidential address.

We look forward to seeing you all at the anniversary event.

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We regret to inform the sad demise of SHRI KAIBILI CHENGAPPA (Pattadara) on 7.2.2018.
The 11th day ceremony will be held on 17.02.2018, Saturday, 10.00AM at **Hotel Roost, Hunsur Road, Mysore.**
Those who have not received the invitation, please treat this as a personal invitation and pray for the departed soul.

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Saga of small newspapers in Mysuru

[Continued from page 4]

B.C. Srinivasa Iyengar and two brothers, M. Ramanuja Iyengar and M. Sreenivasa Iyengar, were three notable personalities of the time in Mysuru. B.C. Srinivasa Iyengar launched the controversial *"Deshabhimani"* in 1891, a monthly, and *"Sthree Vidyabhimani"* in the same year. M. Sreenivasa Iyengar published *"Nadegannadi,"* a weekly in Kannada, and as a companion to it, *"Mysore Standard"* in English in 1895. Subsequently, a number of weeklies and monthlies followed.

Some of these publications, in particular *"Deshabhimani,"* were strong critics of the Government leading to conflicts between the Press and the Government. Such newspapers were directed to suspend their publications and their printing presses were attached by the Government.

Era of tabloids

The era of tabloids began in 1917 in Mysuru with the publication of *"Satyavadi"* in Kannada. It was started by M.V. Subba Rao for the cause of truth. A number of single sheet dailies began to be published emulating *"Satyavadi"* in the following years. **Around 80s, Mysuru had as many as 32 tabloids, all single sheets, priced at three paisa. They were called 'penny papers' and were often ridiculed as *"Mooru kaasu patrike."*** They were the cheapest dailies in the country.

Most of them were popular and commanded readership. Readers subscribed for 3-4 dailies. Many of the editors were popular personalities in the city. Some were freedom fighters or leading Congressmen. The news items were brief, just four or five lines, unless very important. Even then, the news items did not run beyond 3-4 paragraphs. Majority of the news items related to local events.

Editorials were rare and advertisements were also few. Monthly subscription was just eight annas of a 16-anna rupee.

When communication was limited, unlike the present day technology-advanced means of communication, these small dailies were awaited eagerly by the readers to know the news of the day. On major national-level occurrences like death of the Prime Minister or the President, they even brought out special editions. Religious events like Harikathe, worship in temples, music programmes, bhajans, stoppage of water or electricity, Municipal Council meetings, and similar programmes were the items reported in them. National or State news items rarely found place in the daily, unless they were important.

The editor himself was the owner and publisher. When a compositor abstained, he composed the matter, and setting the metal types in galleys, made-up the page to the size of his paper. In such situations, he printed the daily himself on the small treadle machine. The editor maintained personal rapport with the leading personalities of the city and gathered information. He attended programmes and meetings and acted as a reporter as well. He commanded respect and was invited for all important events.

After about 80s, these small dailies became more vibrant and spread out their coverage. They published the list of films screened in the local theatres daily. They covered crime news building rapport with the Police. They also covered the debates of the members in the City Municipal Council meetings exhaustively, in particular the Opposition party criticism against the administration.

Realising the need for an English daily, G.L. Swamy converted his Kannada daily, *"Samachara,"* started in 1950, into an English daily under the same name. It enabled those who could not read Kannada to keep themselves abreast of the happenings in Mysuru. A few years later, the second English daily (an eveninger) was launched by K.B. Ganapathy under the title *"Star of Mysore"* which is celebrating its 40th anniversary today. He followed it up with a Kannada daily, *"Mysooru Mithra."* Both these dailies have become the leading papers of Mysuru. *"Star of Mysore"* is the only major English daily published in the city now.

"Mino-News" started by Shafi Ahmed Shariff, *"Mysore Today"* by B.N. Nagaraj, *"Andolana"* by Rajashekara Koti and *"Mysore Mail"* by Vasu were the other English dailies that were brought out later but folded up.

Pre-Independence saw the publication of the pioneering *"Sathyavadi," "Mysore Patrike," "Sadhvi," "Mysore Vaishya Patrike"* and *"The Rationalist."*

Post-Independence saw many new dailies. They included *"Varthaman," "Swatantra Darshini," "Vijaya," "Aruna," "Samachar," "Independent," "Vishwadhoota," "Ashoka," "Rajya Dharma," "Sudharma," "Daily Kausar," "Aftab-e-Karnataka," "Shams," "Nagara Darshini," "Poura Dhwani," "Prakrit," "Navadhwani," "Andolana," "Vidyaranya," "Sankranthi," "Star of Mysore," "Mino-News," "Mysooru Mithra", "Mysore Today," "Shanthavani," "Mahanandi," "Arathi," "Kannadigara Prajanudi," "Sanje Samachar"* and *"Mysore Mail."* During 1970 alone, the highest number of 15 newspapers took birth.

"Sudharma," started by **K.N. Varadaraja Iyengar, is the only Sanskrit daily published in the country. After the demise of Varadaraja Iyengar, it is being published by his son, K.V. Sampathkumar.**

There were a few Urdu publications too like *"Daily Kausar"* (Editor: Khaleel Bebak), *"Shams"* (Nazir Ahmed), *"Aftab-e-Karnataka"* and *"Mino-News"* (Shafi Ahmed Shariff) and *"Tipu Mail"* (Farooq Rehman).

Often the reporters of State and National dailies depended upon the leading eveningers. Many a times, they marked stories that appeared in them and sent them to their newspapers on the teleprinters, either in a hurry to meet the deadline or avoid typing the same item on their teleprinters. This shows the credibility the small newspapers enjoyed.

Besides *"Samachar,"* which was the first to expose the sensational Sathyadev murder in which Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Somashekar was involved, *"Star of Mysore," "Andolana"* and *"Mysooru Mithra,"* which continue to be popular dailies expanding into district newspapers, have also played a significant role in **investigative journalism.** Their exhaustive coverage to the atrocities of forest brigand Veerappan, even before the State or National dailies could cover, stand as a testimony to the role played by these small newspapers.

Despite their size and circulation, local dailies in Mysuru have played an outstanding role. They were the torch-bearers during the freedom movement and later took up the cause of the people — its readers. A few of them are still alive and kicking.

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Srilatha's Veena concert tomorrow at RAAGA

Vidu. Y.G. Srilatha, a talented young musician, is to present a Veena recital at RAAGA Music Academy, at 5.30 pm on Saturday (Feb. 17), at Prajna Kuteera, Vishwamanava Double Road, Kuvempunagar.

Srilatha, daughter of Vidu. Y.G. Parimala and Y.G. Sampath Kumar, is a rare achiever in both Science and Art. She is a M. Tech in Digital Signal Processing with Distinction from Jain University. Now, to the Arts side where she is making waves. She received her initial training in Vocal and Veena from her mother. She is pursuing her training in Veena from *Ganakalabhooshana* Dr. Suma Sudhindra. She has given over 500 concerts, which includes solo, duet, fusion and group ensembles. A recent instrument based dance recital 'Nava Vidha Bhakti through RagamTanamPallavi' had Srilatha as lead Veena player.

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A talk on Healthy Living through Ayurveda and Yoga by Dr.N.V. Krishnamurthy, Director, Prajna Kuteera, from 4.30 pm to 5.15 pm, precedes the concert.

— Veena Arun Kumar

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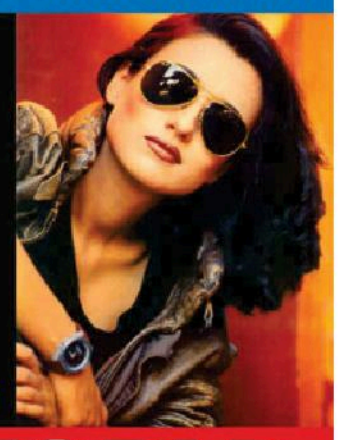

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Fresh Oil!

A worker is seen loading coconut pieces into the machine.

By V. Shourabh

While the fast-paced world has resorted to readily available and packaged consumable products, there is one shop in Mysuru which prepares fresh oil from raw materials. The oil mill which is situated on Narayana Shastry Cross Road (between D.D. Urs Road and *More* Supermarket) swells with several customers who bring in nuts and get oil extracted within no time.

The shop **'Mokambika Oil Mill'** prepares fresh oil right in front of the customers, thereby giving them 100% pure product. They prepare coconut oil, castor oil, groundnut oil, gingelly oil, niger seeds oil etc. The shop is run by **T. Manjunath** and his wife **Padma.**

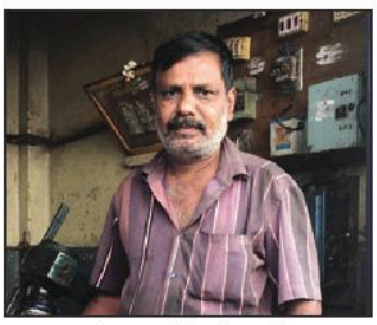
Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Padma said, "We work in both ways. Most people bring raw materials in huge numbers and we extract oil and give it to them and some people come and directly buy oil from us. Generally, they bring in kgs of coconut (copra) and we prepare coconut oil. We have a good reputation as the oil is freshly prepared and we have regular customers who have a very good opinion about us. The mill and the machine is setup right in front of their eyes and the extraction process is simple and the oils are pure."

The shop has enough space for the machinery and oil barrels as many people seem to be attracted towards this freshly prepared oil rather than the packaged oil.

Speaking about the prices of oils, Padma added that the rates vary as per the market prices of their raw materials and that it is always fluctuating.

She said, "If the customers bring in the required materials, then we charge about Rs.10 per kg to extract its oil. With the machinery that we have, it generally takes about 15 minutes to extract oil from 10 kg of raw materials. It is only groundnut that consumes more time in its oil extraction, while the other oils can be extracted easily and quickly. To get about one litre of coconut oil, they will have to bring about two kg of copra or coconut. We also extract oil from badam, only if the customers bring in about 15 kgs of badam. But as badam is very expensive, none of our customers come for badam oil extraction."

Padma, wife of Mokambika Oil Mill owner T. Manjunath, seen attending to a customer.



Owner Manjunath

The couple have been running this shop since the last 20 years and have established an identity for themselves for giving pure form of oil to their customers. Oil, which is an integral part of the human diet, is one of the major factors for the healthy being of an individual.

With various packaged oil companies claiming stakes about the quality of their products, this shop that has been extracting oil right in front of their customers, has been gaining their trust and has managed to grow along with modern packaged products and marketing strategies.

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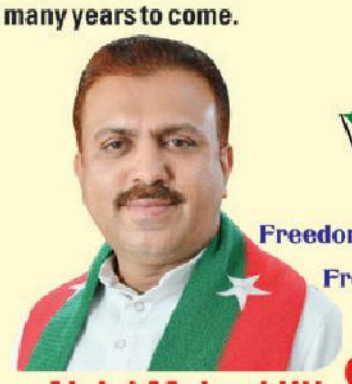

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ಅಚ್ಚ ಕನ್ನಡ CONDUCTOR

By Rajkumar Bhavasar

I am not a November Kannadiga. I am 365 days, 24x7 Kannadiga and I am proud to be born a Kannadiga," is the strong message that this man in uniform sends.

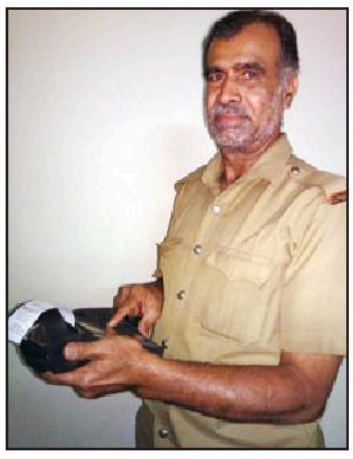
The man in uniform, who is a bus conductor on route no. 94 K/5 in the KSRTC Mysuru City Bus service, is also called 'Kannada Conductor.' His name Thyagaraj also reflects the sacrifice, service, passion and the commitment he has for the cause he is espousing — the spread of Kannada language in his own unique way.

The chant of Kannada, Kannada... is not something new. The Gokak agitation launched on April 2, 1982 gained momentum after matinee idol Dr. Rajkumar assumed leadership. The then Congress government headed by R. Gundu Rao accepted the recommendation made by the Gokak Committee to provide First Language status to Kannada. Kannada organisations celebrated "victory" on July 27 that year.

If one is committed to a cause, he also has to walk the talk. Thyagaraj believes in setting his house in order first. He works in the first or second shift. As soon as he gets up in the morning, he invokes Kannada Mathe Bhuvaneswari's name and as he steps into the bus, chants 'Kannada Mathege Jayavaagali' (let there be victory for Kannada mother Bhuvaneshwari) and starts his daily work.

As a bus conductor, he needs to be constantly talking to people and he communicates only in Kannada, without using a single English word in his conversation. That is the level of command and control he has over Kannada language.

He announces the names of all the roads, circles and bus stops on his route in Kannada only. Yarree... Jagadguru Shivarathreeshwara Maha Vidyalaya (JSS Circle), Lakshmi Chitramandira (Lakshmi Talkies), Banavara Ramaswamy Vritta (Ramaswamy Circle), Kamakshi Dhavakane (Kamakshi Hospital), Maruthi Sanchari



Thyagaraj, KSRTC Conductor

Chitramandira (Maruthi Tent), Shilabhavana (Stone Building), Nandini Haalina Dabba (Nandini Milk Booth) are some of the names that rolls out from his tongue in pure Kannada while he asks passengers to get down at the bus stops.

Some of the other names in the route that he has traversed includes Aaru Dwarada Vritta (Hardinge Circle or 6 Gate), Aidu Deepagala Vritta (Five Lights Circle) and Gramantara Sarige Nildana for Suburban Bus Stand. Not even by chance does an English word slip out of his tongue.

Thyagaraj was once chided by a senior officer for using Kannada numerals on his daily trip-sheet. Instead of praising him for using Kannada numbers, the official deliberately harassed him. Since he was using Kannada numbers, the official kept scrutinising the trip-sheet to spot errors or discrepancies. "If you use Kannada numbers then I will suspend you," he used to threaten.

Says Thyagaraj: "I was annoyed by the behaviour of this Kannadiga official for his disrespect for Kannada and his anti-Kannada stance. 'I told him curtly.' If you want to suspend me go ahead and do it. But give it to me in writing that you are suspending me because I use Kannada language." From that day he bowed to my love for Kannada, said Thyagaraj, breaking into a smile.

Seeing his proficiency in the language and use of Kannada words, KSRTC Mysuru Division Cultural Association felicitated him in 2005-06. He says that he is not a 'November Kannadiga' referring to the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations by various outfits during the November.

Thyagaraj hails from Kothanahalli in Maddur. He was working in Karnataka Ball Bearing and after it closed down he came to Mysuru in 1984. He got an appointment order from KSRTC on Aug.24, 1993. He worked as a conductor in Mysuru-Chikmagalur, Mysuru-Kerala routes and since 2010, he is the conductor in KSRTC Mysuru City Bus Service. Even as the Kannada activists profess their so-called love for the language by resorting to all kinds of means, here is one untainted Kannadiga who is spreading the message of greatness of one of the oldest languages in the world.

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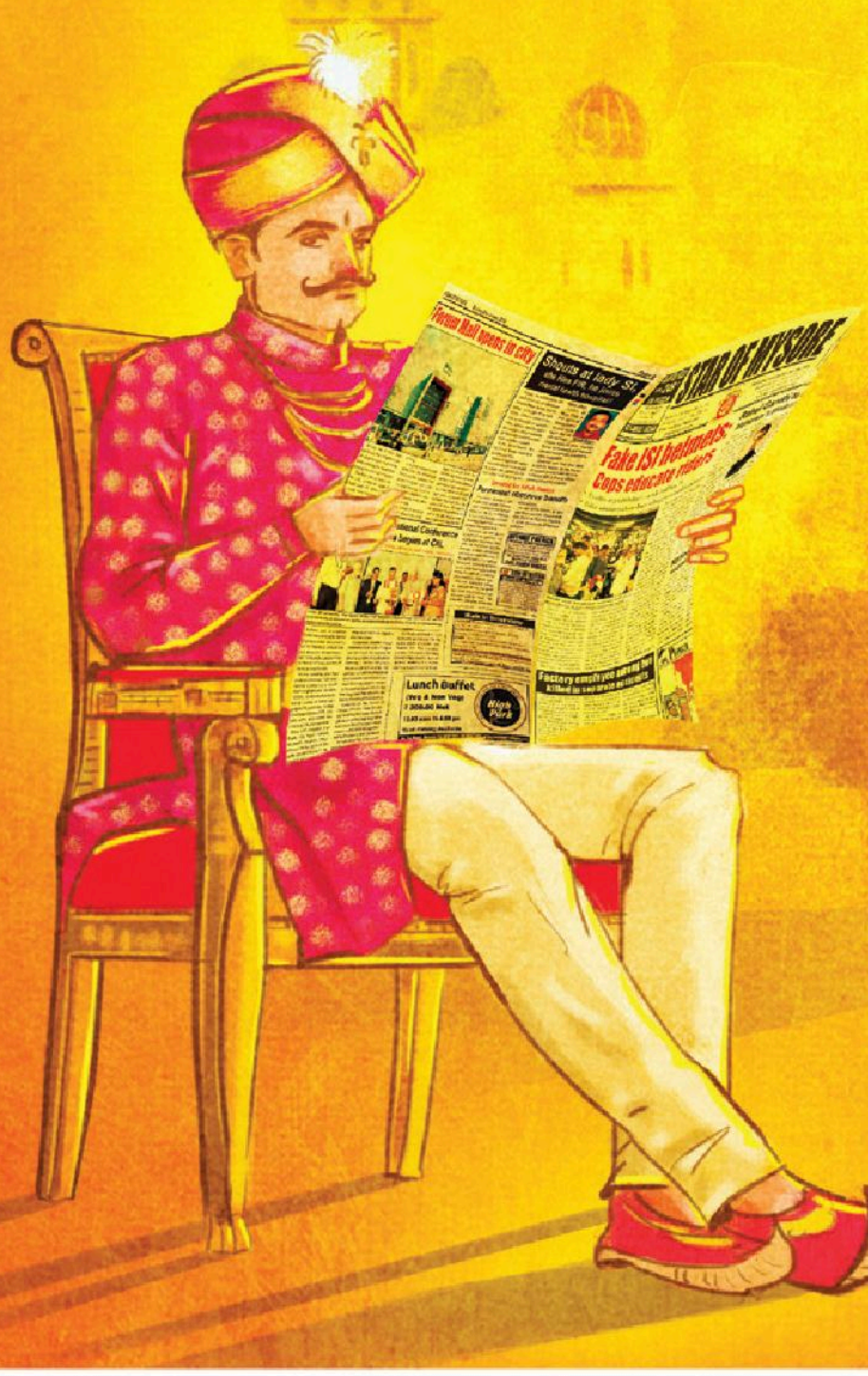

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